MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

VOLUME 19

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 280-291
& ANNUAL No. 12
BILL MANTLO & SAL BUSCEMA

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 19

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 280-291

& ANNUAL No. 12

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INTRODUCTION
BY AL EWING

"To be continued."

These three little words form the basic molecular structure of the American super hero genre—whatever happens, whether it's a simple slugfest or a seismic change to the base conditions under which an entire franchise operates, there must always be a continuation. The story never ends, even in death, even with cancellation. A publisher can put a chaotic, ever-changing title about a super-strong monster to sleep after a mere six issues…and the main character will still haunt the shared universe like a ghost, battling his way through the other heroes, growing in narrative power until he can once again burst out into his own magazine.

Nothing ever ends. To be continued.

In the previous Hulk *Masterworks*—volume eighteen—we saw Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema make massive changes to the franchise, structural alterations to the Hulk's very being that the character couldn't possibly recover from. Bruce Banner took full control of the Hulk's body, along with the power to change back and forth from man to monster whenever he wanted. All the crimes of the Hulk were forgiven and forgotten and every other hero in Marvel's deep bench—even those who'd fought him, even Defensor—proclaimed him as one of them. It was the happiest possible ending for our green goliath, and it came at the very end of the book. Surely there'd be no volume nineteen?

But here we are. "To be continued" is the mantra—and so, the Hulk must continue.

The business of this volume is chiselling out what that continuation looks like. What does a Hulk story look like when the Hulk himself is so thoroughly out of the picture, replaced completely by his alter ego? To see Mantlo and Buscema's answer to the question, we have to move from the outside in.

THE OUTER CIRCLE — HULK'S FOES

"What to do with a radically altered Hulk" is, primarily, a question for the bad guys, and it's the Leader who steps up to the plate first, in a very Leader-like fashion. He pokes and prods the Hulk, attacking him with humanoids, luring him into an outer-space battle, even making the old *"team up with me and let's rule the world together"* offer—all with the goal of assessing the new Hulk and working out how exactly they fit together. And the conclusion the story forces us to arrive at—along with the Leader himself—is that they just don't. Not anymore.

The new Hulk can no longer present a dichotomy with his ex-archenemy—he's as much a genius type as the Leader is. (Though not on as high a level—Banner is always at pains to point out that he's a physicist, a specialist in his field but not yet the Mr. Fantastic-level all-rounder he'll become. The Leader, meanwhile, has a literal giant brain. He's won the semiotic battle before it starts.)

The two of them can't create a story by teaming up, either. The Hulk could and did—either through general antipathy towards humanity, or through blackmail, or through childish naivety. But now Bruce Banner is in control, there's no such out for him. Joining forces with the Leader would mean breaking character—and the suspension of disbelief—so thoroughly as to derail the entire plot.

Thus, the Hulk's defeat in their initial bout feels more like a disqualification. The Leader treats it as an unqualified victory, going so far as to send the Hulk and his supporting cast back to Earth on the

assumption that he's now out of the archenemy game. He's not entirely wrong—Hulk eventually wins their extended battle by ceding his book to the Avengers, to the extent that it's Captain America and Hawkeye who defeat the Leader in prehistory and Iron Man who makes the failed attempt to save the Leader from death by his own hubris, while the Hulk takes a supporting role as the team tank. The Leader's world takeover plan is, unfortunately for him, still sized for a Hulk comic—an attempt to introduce gamma rays to the dawn of humanity. He dies asking the world what's so wrong with wanting to be a gamma mutate like him, a plaintive cry clearly meant for Hulk, or even She-Hulk, and completely wasted on Ol' Shell-Head.

The other Hulk villains have their own issues. Zzzax turns up and, though he gets some decent licks in, he has the opposite of the Leader's problem—being made of electricity, he's so easily defeated by a physicist that the conflict takes a back seat to Banner's internal musings. The Abomination, meanwhile, already had his final battle with the Hulk in the previous volume, and is literally dredged up again by M.O.D.O.K. He wants to do anything except fight the Hulk, knowing instinctively that he can't do any better than last time and can only do worse. M.O.D.O.K. has to torture him into participating—and even M.O.D.O.K. doesn't particularly want to get involved with Hulks new or old, he's just sending Abomination on his assassination run as a *quid pro quo* arrangement with Thunderbolt Ross.

It's Ross who maybe comes off worst out of all Hulk's foes in this volume. Zzzax will return from his summary dismissal, and the Abomination and the Leader will return from death—but this is the end for Thunderbolt Ross as the gruff military figure with a mission, at least for a long while.

He could deal with the Hulk and Banner he knows: The Hulk is either to be fought or grudgingly allied with against a bigger threat, and similarly Banner can be a danger, an object of pity, a good man who must be cured of his affliction, or all three. All of these things are understood, all can be slotted into place in the story. But this is entirely new—Banner is the Hulk now, and it feels permanent. Banner isn't a danger, he can't be pitied, he doesn't want a cure—and the Hulk, having been pardoned by Ross's commander in chief, cannot now be fought. There's no way into the new status quo for Ross, and he breaks against it, unable to accept change. Soon he's risking everything for a half-baked plan to hit the Hulk with a foe he's already beaten a dozen times before. It feels desperate, the helpless flailing of a lost man, and Ross ends the volume near-suicidal, looking back at the life he's destroyed.

In fact, that's something all the Hulk foes here share—Ross and Blonsky are metaphorically caged by past battles with the Hulk and unable to escape, Zzzax arrives only to be sent back whence he came and the Leader is literally consigned to the past. Hulk has other enemies in this volume, but nobody from his traditional rogues' gallery. (Other foes here include Arsenal courtesy of the Avengers, Quasimodo courtesy of an episode of the Hulk cartoon show, and the protagonist of "Hero", courtesy of… well, that's a whole story in itself and one you can easily find recounted elsewhere.) But if all Hulk's past foes are having trouble adjusting to the Hulk's present, what about his friends? Let's go further in.

THE INNER CIRCLE — THE SUPPORTING CAST

Of course, Thunderbolt Ross is only technically a villain—I lump him in with the Hulk foes because he actively wants the Hulk dead, but up until this latest break with reality he's been a relatively loyal member of the supporting cast.

It's Betty, we're told, that drives him over the edge. She left the ensemble at the end of the last volume, her inability to accept the new status quo acting as a portent of things to come for Hulk's

other friends. But in this volume, we see her drifting around the edges of the narrative, unable to quit Bruce or the Hulk, and it's this romantic indecision that apparently drives Ross to make his reckless attempt to remove Bruce Banner from the equation. By the time he's made his move, though, Betty's come all the way around to New Hulk, and she doesn't take her father's betrayal well—effectively disowning Ross when the truth comes out. But there's no home with the Hulk to go back to at that point—events have progressed too far, Betty's been replaced as love interest more than once (including, briefly, by a floating sphere.) So, like the villains, she's left marooned in the Hulk's past.

Before this, though, and before the sphere, we have Bereet, the alien bird woman and author surrogate. She and the Hulk share a kiss (and some of the worst restaurant service recorded in a Marvel comic) but it goes nowhere—with the Leader's shenanigans waiting for them back at their hotel, there really isn't time. Not to mention that Bereet's served her purpose in the narrative, having ushered in the change to the Hulk. Once the Avengers take over the Leader plotline, she sees herself out, disgusted by the idea of a team-up sullying a pure Hulk story. In the end, we leave her as we found her, lamenting the need to pander to the masses to make a crust—for her, one tinseltown is very like another. For all the work she put into changing the Hulk and telling new Hulk stories, she finds herself right back where she started at the end of it all, an unfulfilled would-be auteur looking for her next gig. She has my sympathies.

That said, she does get the chance to tell Rick Jones off. You'd think Rick would be the one most likely to weather the great Avengers storm that batters the book, but he's left wandering the streets, wondering where it all went wrong. Bereet calls him nothing without the Hulk, and while that's hypocritical of her, you do see her point. Rick's been living vicariously through the Hulk for the entire previous volume, but once Bruce embraces the role of scientist over super hero, Rick, like Bereet, has nothing to feed off. Like the villains—and like Bereet and even Betty—Rick has failed to adapt and is now left behind. Will any of the supporting cast survive this intact?

She-Hulk does—it's Bruce that has to adapt to her, acknowledging that she enjoys being a Hulk, that they're two different people and his hang-ups don't apply. But then, she's not really part of his cast—they meet during the brief window when he cedes control of his book to the Avengers, and that meeting is another sign that he's on someone else's turf.

So with all the old supporting cast jettisoned, we're left with some new additions. First, the Sphere, which feels like an interesting experiment in a non-human love interest. After the alien Bereet, it doesn't seem impossible that Bruce would find love with a robot, though maybe not with one he built. But in the end, the Sphere exists more to create drama with the real new love interest, Kate Waynesboro, than to be a love interest in its own right. Most of what the Sphere does is reacting to her presence and moving her plot forward, and once its utility has been exhausted, it spends its meagre life on creating a little pathos. It's for the best—the artificial intelligence that develops emotions for its creator doesn't fit Bruce Banner as well as, say, Hank Pym.

Kate feels much more like the real deal in terms of a romantic option for the Hulk. For one, she's a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent sent to monitor him, which immediately creates drama and provides an excuse for Bruce to lose control when he finds out. For another, she has no inherent relationship with the Hulk himself before they meet. Where Betty treated the Hulk's continued existence as a personal affront, Kate isn't bothered by Bruce's transformations in the slightest, willing to give him all possible benefit of the doubt that he is indeed in control of the monster. Which raises the obvious spectre of Bruce losing control again—after all, it's been multiple issues by now. Surely the status quo has to reset soon, right?

But no. Instead, it's Kate who becomes a monster—a mirror of M.O.D.O.K.—and when she

immediately asserts her agency in the face of this, rebelling first against A.I.M. and then against M.O.D.O.K. himself, it's Bruce who treats her as so many have treated him—like a monster who can't be trusted, who doesn't know her own mind. (Admittedly, the captions are very much on his side here.) Had she been allowed to continue as Ms. M.O.D.O.K., would the Hulk have learned to accept her, as Betty eventually accepts Bruce? We'll never know—when she emerges again from the transformation chamber M.O.D.O.K. forces her into, she's a normal human again with no lines. We'll have to wait until next volume to see how the experience affected her. To be continued.

AT THE CORE — BRUCE BANNER

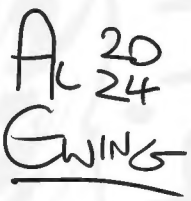
So what about the Hulk's greatest enemy? What about the Hulk's oldest supporting cast member? What about Bruce Banner? Of course, he's everywhere in this volume—strictly speaking, the Hulk doesn't appear, just Bruce wearing his body. And Bruce is, frankly, making a mess of it.

The problems that plagued him at the end of the last volume won't go away. The Hulk is ineffective if he's thinking too hard, and even as Banner leaps into the fray, he's doing just that—overthinking, overanalyzing, all but tripping over his own feet. The Leader trounces him so badly he has to let his own comic out as a second Avengers title. Earlier, we saw his battle with Zzzax as the villain's loss—but while Bruce's brainpower scores him that victory, it's only after getting jolted again and again in increasingly desperate attempts to fight how the Hulk used to. And when he does get angry enough to cut loose against the Abomination—when he learns Kate is monitoring him for S.H.I.E.L.D., that the world that's apparently forgiven him still doesn't fully trust him—he all but collapses in terror at his own unleashed violence. Out of the entire cast, it's Banner who's the least able to continue on in the face of this strange new Hulk.

And yet there's one moment where we catch a glimpse of what might come next. After Kate is kidnapped by a crazed Abomination, the Hulk swings into action—in the lab. When Ross and Betty enter the scene, they find a Hulk kitted out with advanced technology and ready to track the Abomination through science. And when the Hulk learns of Ross' betrayal—a far uglier betrayal than Kate's minor subterfuge, a betrayal not just of Bruce but of America itself—he reacts with icy calm rather than the anger he displayed earlier. Even teaming up with M.O.D.O.K. doesn't seem to ruffle this cool and collected Hulk's feathers, at least at first.

Is this the Hulk the next volume will bring? Will Bruce keep his nerve and keep his fear of his own rage from controlling his decisions? Will the Hulk-that-was remain a thing of the past? It'd be too cruel to pull the rug out now, surely—even if the Hulk's foes, friends and alter ego are having trouble adjusting, the readers still have faith. Don't we?

To be continued…



Al Ewing is a current writer for Marvel Comics. Recent work includes Immortal Thor, X-Men: Red, Venom, Defenders, Guardians of the Galaxy *and—most relevant in the context of this book—*The Immortal Hulk.

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®

BILL MANTLO AUTHOR / SAL BUSCEMA & ANDY MUSHYNSKY ARTISTS / JIM NOVAK, LETTERS BOB SHAREN, COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER CHIEF

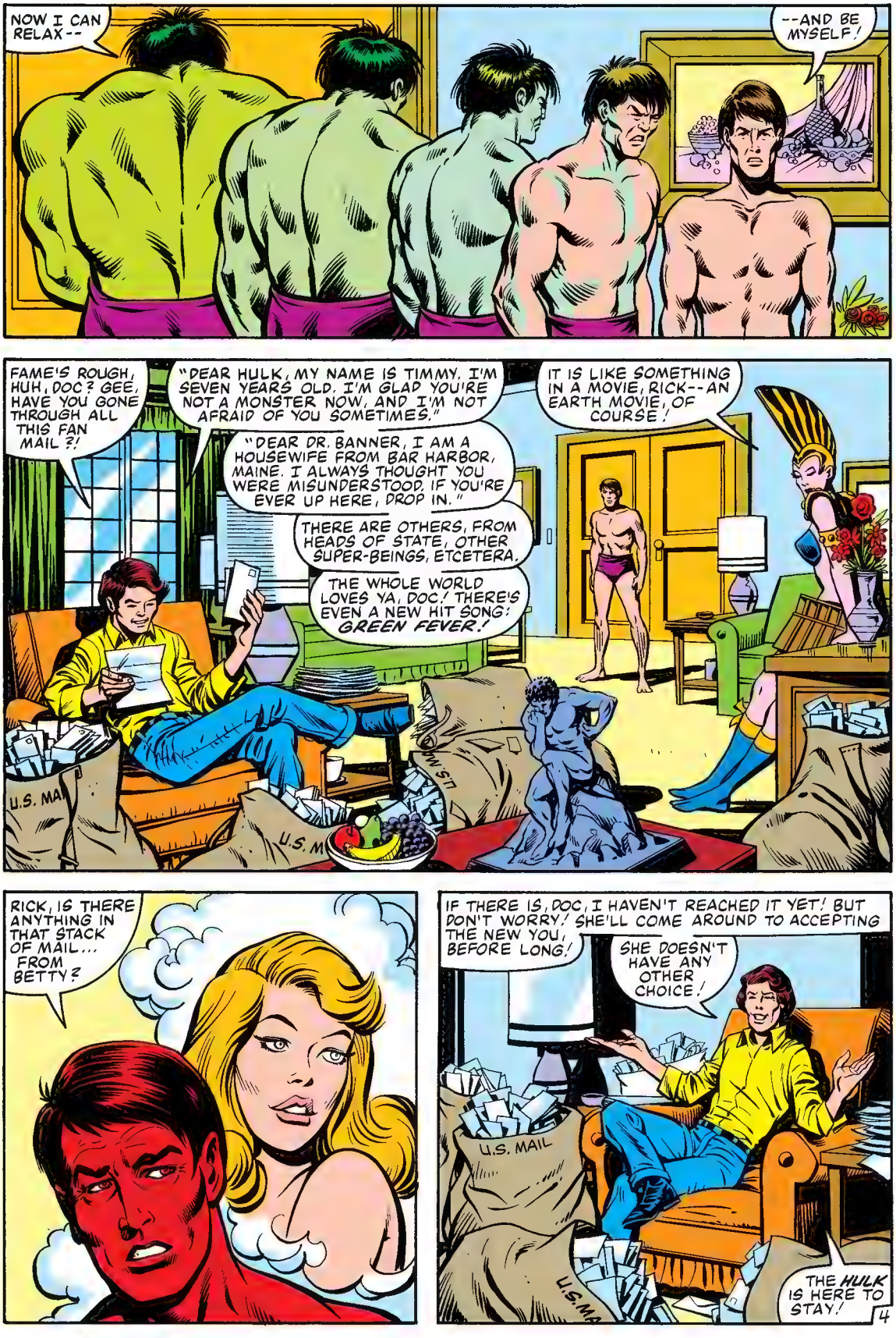
WHEREIN BRUCE BANNER LEARNS THAT ONE CAN BE BIG, GREEN, AND...

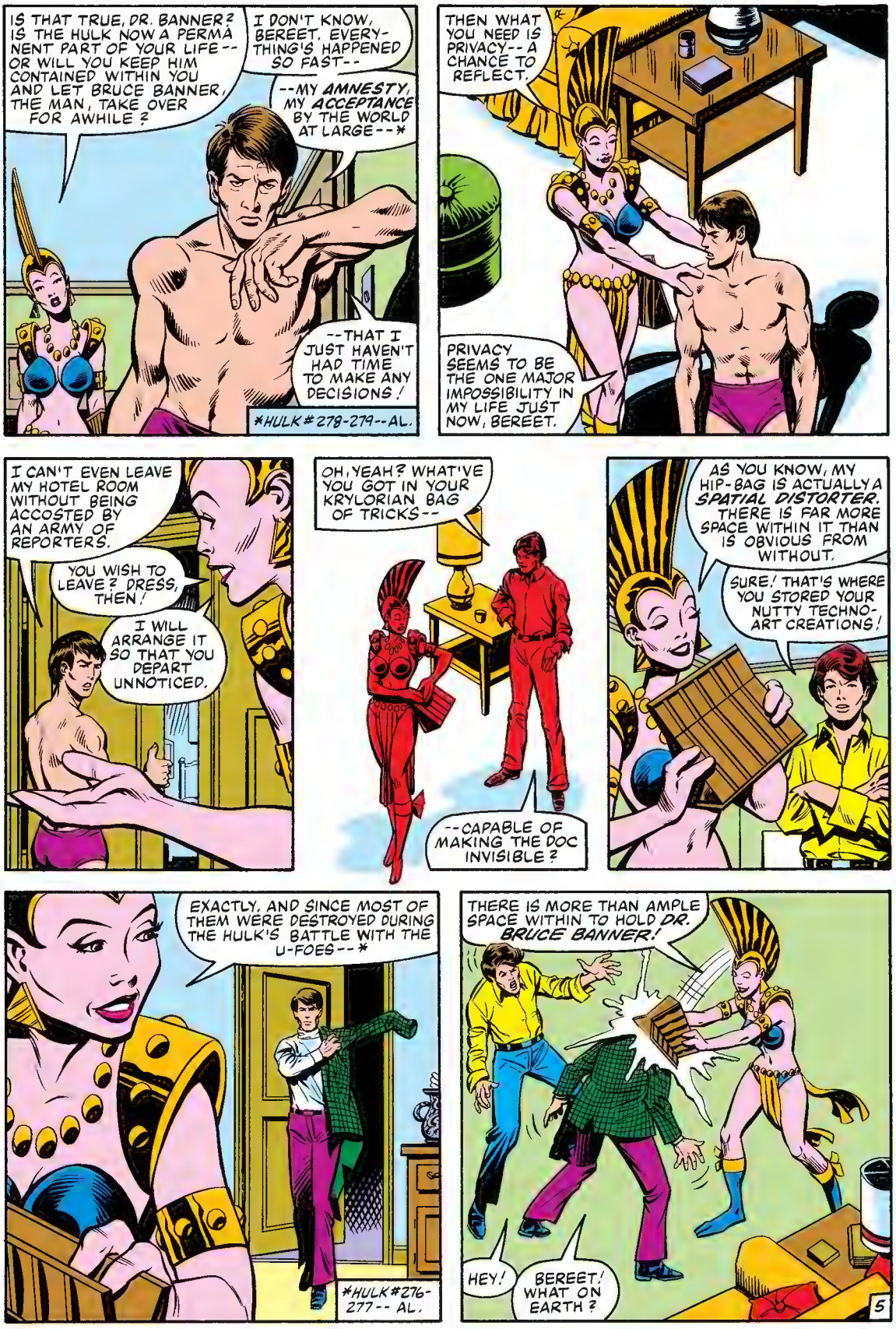
alone in a crowd!

WHO IN BLAZES ARE ALL YOU PEOPLE, AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE MY HOTEL ROOM AT MIDNIGHT?!?
DR. BANNER, I'M FROM TBS EVENING NEWS, AND...
MY PAPER WILL PAY FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!
MY PAPER WILL DOUBLE WHAT HIS PAPER WILL PAY!
HOLD THAT POSE! THAT'S IT!
IS IT TRUE YOUR FAVORITE FLAVOR IS PISTACHIO?
THE MEDIA HAS BEEN WAITING ALL NIGHT FOR A GLIMPSE OF THE NEW, INTELLIGENT HULK--
--AND YOU ARE HERE!

HOW DID YOU PEOPLE GET UP HERE? THE MANAGEMENT IS UNDER STRICT ORDERS...!
NEVER HEARD OF THE POWER OF THE PRESS, DR. BANNER?
NOW, ABOUT YOUR CHANGE...
I MADE ALL THE STATEMENTS I'M GOING TO MAKE AT YESTERDAY'S PARADE! SURELY YOU WERE THERE!
OF COURSE! BUT THE PUBLIC'S DYING FOR SOME INTIMATE INFORMATION ON THE MAN WHO USED TO BE A MONSTER!
HOW INTIMATE?
DOES BRUCE BANNER REALLY CONTROL THE HULK NOW?
ARE YOU GOING TO REJOIN THE AVENGERS?
DOES THAT MEAN THE HULK IS DEAD?
IS NEW YORK YOUR PERMANENT HOME?
CAN YOU REALLY CHANGE BACK AND FORTH AT WILL?
HAVE YOU ANY PLANS TO ENGAGE IN GAMMA RAY RESEARCH?
WHAT ABOUT BUILDING OTHER GAMMA BOMBS?
WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE ACTRESS?
HAVE YOU ANY ADVICE FOR THE YOUTH OF AMERICA?
DO YOU REALLY LIKE PISTACHIO?
IS IT EASY BEING GREEN?
NOW FOR THE PICTURES!
SMILE, DR. BANNER!
NO, DON'T SMILE--LOOK ANGRY!
HEY--THAT'S THE WAY!
THE GROWL BEGINS LOW IN HIS THROAT...
2

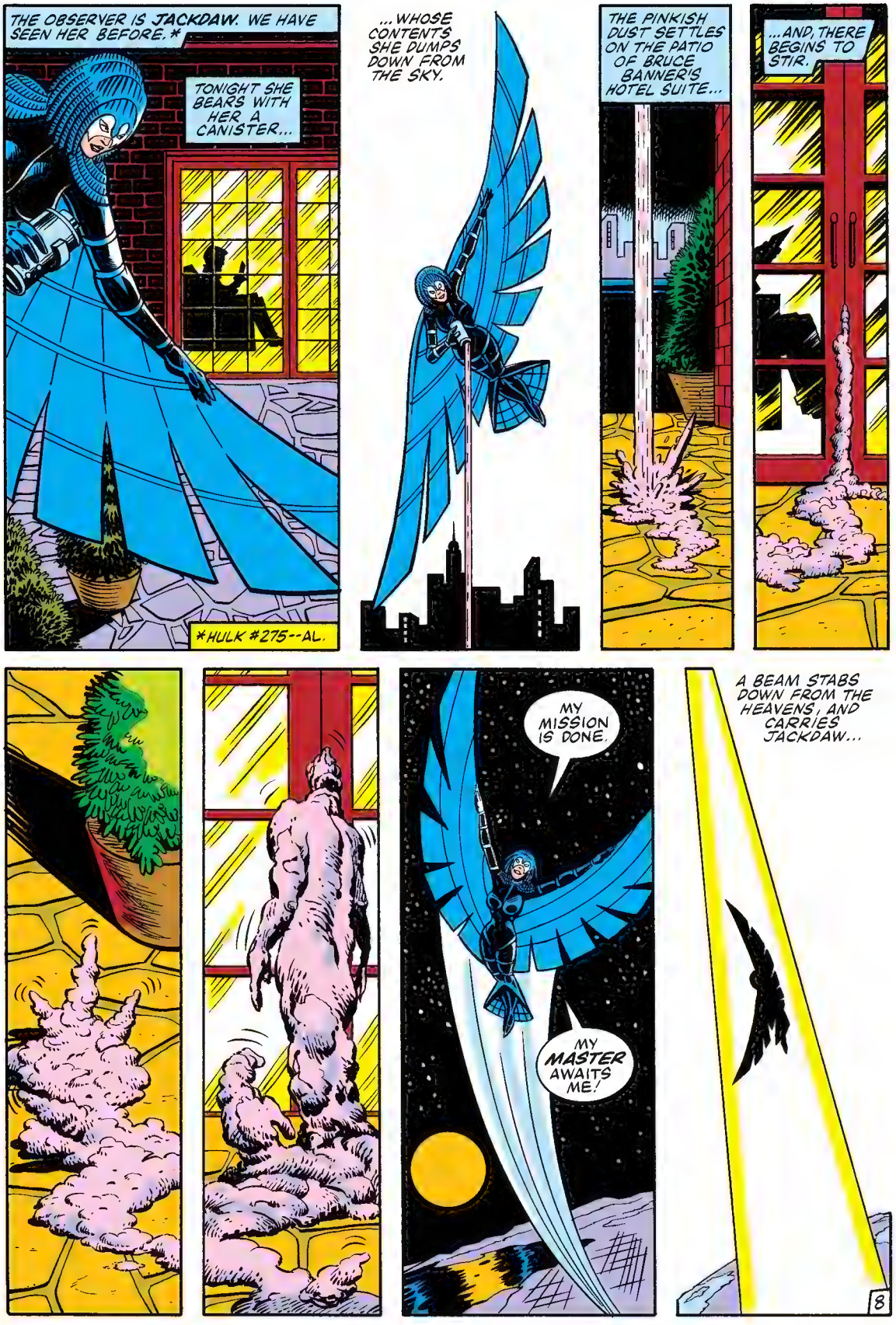
... BEFORE ERUPTING IN A SAVAGE RELEASE OF UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE!
GET THE BLAZES OUT OF HERE!!!
OMIGOSH! HE'S A MONSTER AGAIN!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! THE HULK'S NOT A MONSTER ANYMORE!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S BRUCE BANNER NOW!
AND BRUCE BANNER WOULDN'T HURT US!
THEY FLOCK BACK, GABBLING LIKE GEESE, AND BRUCE BANNER REALIZES THAT FURTHER RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.
ALL RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
ABOUT THE CHANGE...
ABOUT YOUR FUTURE...
ABOUT THE AVENGERS...
ABOUT NEW YORK...
ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE ACTRESS...
ABOUT PISTACHIO...
ABOUT...
HE ANSWERS THEM ALL, AS BEST HE CAN...
...UNTIL THE QUESTIONS CEASE.
AT LAST! I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER GO!
3

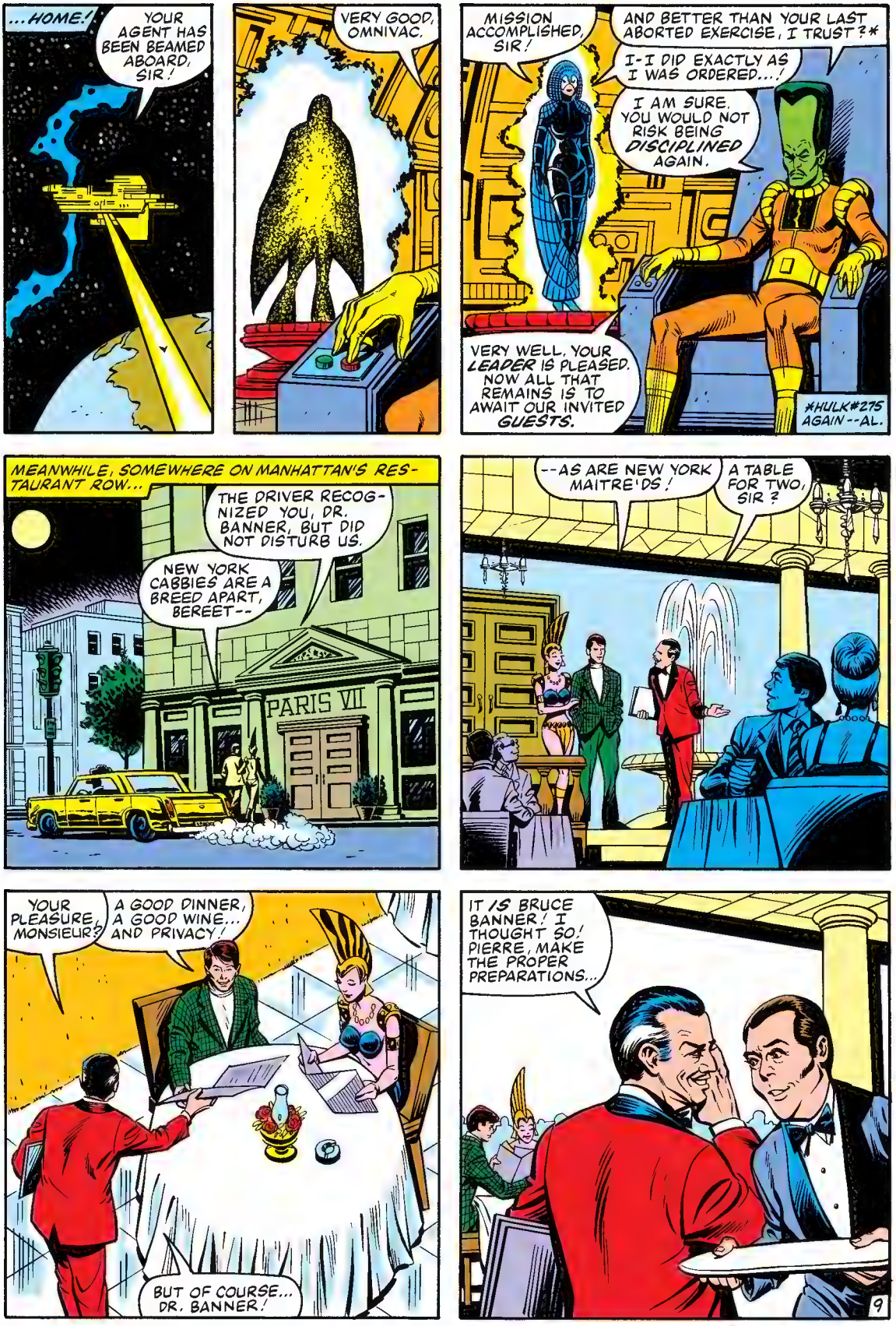

NOW I CAN RELAX--
--AND BE MYSELF!
FAME'S ROUGH, HUH, DOC? GEE, HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH ALL THIS FAN MAIL?!
"DEAR HULK, MY NAME IS TIMMY. I'M SEVEN YEARS OLD. I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER NOW, AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU SOMETIMES."
"DEAR DR. BANNER, I AM A HOUSEWIFE FROM BAR HARBOR, MAINE. I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE MISUNDERSTOOD. IF YOU'RE EVER UP HERE, DROP IN."
THERE ARE OTHERS, FROM HEADS OF STATE, OTHER SUPER-BEINGS, ETCETERA.
THE WHOLE WORLD LOVES YA, DOC! THERE'S EVEN A NEW HIT SONG: GREEN FEVER!
IT IS LIKE SOMETHING IN A MOVIE, RICK--AN EARTH MOVIE, OF COURSE!
U.S. MA
U.S. M
U.S. MAIL
RICK, IS THERE ANYTHING IN THAT STACK OF MAIL... FROM BETTY?
IF THERE IS, DOC, I HAVEN'T REACHED IT YET! BUT DON'T WORRY! SHE'LL COME AROUND TO ACCEPTING THE NEW YOU, BEFORE LONG!
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE!
U.S. MAIL
U.S. MA
THE HULK IS HERE TO STAY!
4

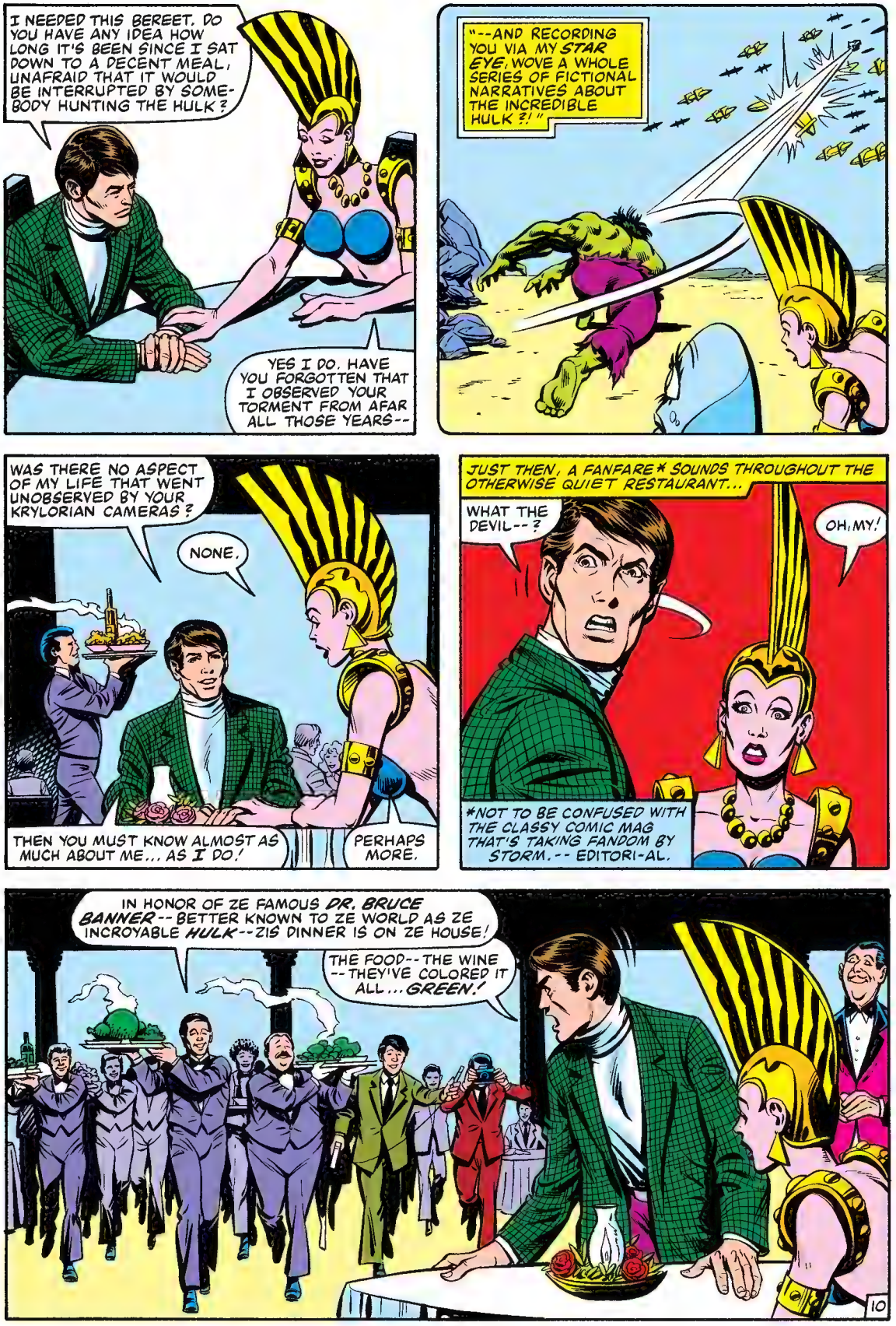

IS THAT TRUE, DR. BANNER? IS THE HULK NOW A PERMANENT PART OF YOUR LIFE -- OR WILL YOU KEEP HIM CONTAINED WITHIN YOU AND LET BRUCE BANNER, THE MAN, TAKE OVER FOR AWHILE?
I DON'T KNOW, BEREET. EVERYTHING'S HAPPENED SO FAST--
--MY AMNESTY, MY ACCEPTANCE BY THE WORLD AT LARGE--*
--THAT I JUST HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS!
*HULK #278-279--AL.
THEN WHAT YOU NEED IS PRIVACY -- A CHANCE TO REFLECT.
PRIVACY SEEMS TO BE THE ONE MAJOR IMPOSSIBILITY IN MY LIFE JUST NOW, BEREET.
I CAN'T EVEN LEAVE MY HOTEL ROOM WITHOUT BEING ACCOSTED BY AN ARMY OF REPORTERS.
YOU WISH TO LEAVE? DRESS, THEN!
I WILL ARRANGE IT SO THAT YOU DEPART UNNOTICED.
OH, YEAH? WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN YOUR KRYLORIAN BAG OF TRICKS--
--CAPABLE OF MAKING THE DOC INVISIBLE?
AS YOU KNOW, MY HIP-BAG IS ACTUALLY A SPATIAL DISTORTER. THERE IS FAR MORE SPACE WITHIN IT THAN IS OBVIOUS FROM WITHOUT.
SURE! THAT'S WHERE YOU STORED YOUR NUTTY TECHNO-ART CREATIONS!
EXACTLY, AND SINCE MOST OF THEM WERE DESTROYED DURING THE HULK'S BATTLE WITH THE U-FOES--*
*HULK #276-277--AL.
THERE IS MORE THAN AMPLE SPACE WITHIN TO HOLD DR. BRUCE BANNER!
HEY!
BEREET! WHAT ON EARTH?
5

NO, DR. BANNER-- NOT PRECISELY "ON EARTH" AT ALL.
LOOK, RICK JONES.
THE DOC-- WHERE HE GO ?!
RICK DOES, AND WHAT HE SEES ASTOUNDS HIM.
HOLY COW! IT'S LIKE A LITTLE UNIVERSE INSIDE THERE.
QUITE A LARGE UNIVERSE, FROM WHERE I STAND!
BEREET, IS THIS SAFE?
SAFER THAN FACING THE MEDIA, DR. BANNER.
SOON, THE DOOR TO BRUCE BANNER'S SUITE OPENS, AND THE ALIEN FEMALE STRIDES FORTH... ALONE.
HAVE A NICE TIME, LADY!
HEY, IT'S THE E.T. WHO'S BEEN SEEN WITH THE HULK!
ARE YOU TWO AN ITEM?
SHE ANSWERS THEM IN THE DULCET TONES OF A KRYLORIAN, A SOUND AKIN TO BIRDSONG...
...AND, LEAVING THEM BEFUDDLED, STEPS OUT INTO THE NIGHT.
575
WHERE TO... UH... MISS ?
I DO NOT KNOW YOUR CITY, I SHALL HAVE TO RELEASE ONE WHO DOES.
HUH ?
RIST
CAB CO.
NOW, DR. BANNER, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SO WE CAN BE... ALONE ?
6

A NICE TRICK, BIRD-LADY! YOU'RE OKAY IN MY BOOK!
I HOPE THE DOC THINKS SO! HE'S BEEN ALL BUSTED UP SINCE BETTY ROSS WALKED OUT ON HIM!
THEY HAD LOVED EACH OTHER FOR YEARS--
--BUT SHE WANTED A BRUCE BANNER WHO WAS COMPLETELY CURED OF BECOMING THE HULK, NOT ONE ABLE TO CONTROL THE HULK!
YOU'D THINK IF SHE REALLY LOVED HIM SHE WOULDN'T HAVE CARED!
AH, WELL-- BACK TO THE MAIL!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM THE AVENGERS INVITING THE HULK, AS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL, FOUNDING MEMBERS, TO REJOIN!
I WONDER HOW THE SHE-HULK WOULD REACT TO THAT, NOW THAT SHE'S AN AVENGER?
U.S. MAIL
AND A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE DEFENDERS! THE DOC'S TOLD ME ABOUT THE HULK'S MEMBERSHIP IN THAT SEMI-SECRET SUPER-GROUP!
I WONDER HOW THE NEW HULK WOULD FIT IN?
WHO'S THIS POST CARD FROM?
BETTY!
"DEAR BRUCE, I HOPE YOU ARE HAPPY. LOVE, BETTY" NO RETURN ADDRESS!
WHAT A DRAG! IF SHE'S NOT GONNA LOVE THE DOC, I WISH SHE'D LEAVE HIM ALONE!
FROM OUTSIDE THE HOTEL WINDOW, RICK JONES IS SILENTLY OBSERVED.
7

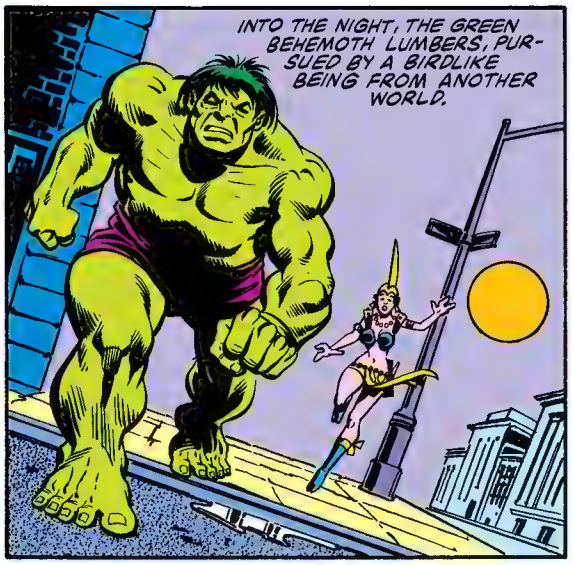

THE OBSERVER IS JACKDAW. WE HAVE SEEN HER BEFORE.*
TONIGHT SHE BEARS WITH HER A CANISTER...
*HULK #275--AL.
...WHOSE CONTENTS SHE DUMPS DOWN FROM THE SKY.
THE PINKISH DUST SETTLES ON THE PATIO OF BRUCE BANNER'S HOTEL SUITE...
...AND, THERE BEGINS TO STIR.
MY MISSION IS DONE.
MY MASTER AWAITS ME!
A BEAM STABS DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS, AND CARRIES JACKDAW...
8

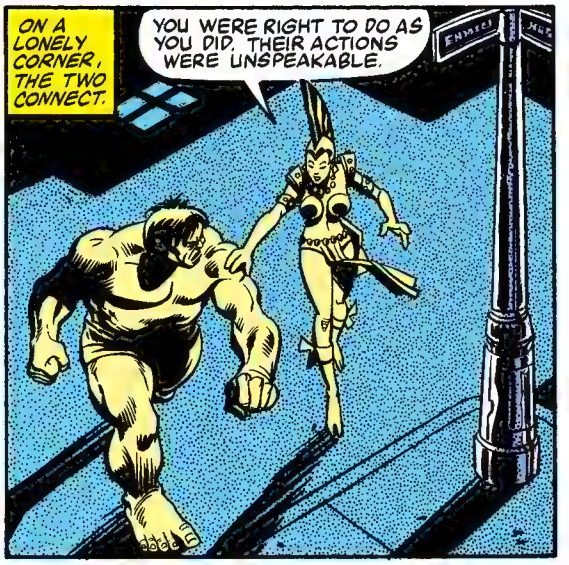

...HOME!
YOUR AGENT HAS BEEN BEAMED ABOARD, SIR!
VERY GOOD, OMNIVAC.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, SIR!
AND BETTER THAN YOUR LAST ABORTED EXERCISE, I TRUST?*
I-I DID EXACTLY AS I WAS ORDERED...!
I AM SURE. YOU WOULD NOT RISK BEING DISCIPLINED AGAIN.
VERY WELL. YOUR LEADER IS PLEASED. NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO AWAIT OUR INVITED GUESTS.
*HULK#275 AGAIN--AL.
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE ON MANHATTAN'S RESTAURANT ROW...
THE DRIVER RECOGNIZED YOU, DR. BANNER, BUT DID NOT DISTURB US.
NEW YORK CABBIES ARE A BREED APART, BEREET--
PARIS VII
--AS ARE NEW YORK MAITRE'DS!
A TABLE FOR TWO, SIR?
YOUR PLEASURE, MONSIEUR?
A GOOD DINNER, A GOOD WINE... AND PRIVACY!
BUT OF COURSE... DR. BANNER!
IT IS BRUCE BANNER! I THOUGHT SO! PIERRE, MAKE THE PROPER PREPARATIONS...
9

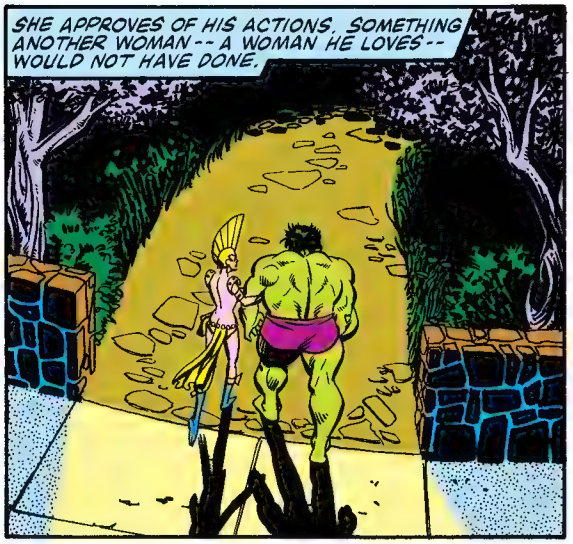

I NEEDED THIS BEREET. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I SAT DOWN TO A DECENT MEAL, UNAFRAID THAT IT WOULD BE INTERRUPTED BY SOMEBODY HUNTING THE HULK?
YES I DO. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I OBSERVED YOUR TORMENT FROM AFAR ALL THOSE YEARS--
"--AND RECORDING YOU VIA MY STAR EYE, WOVE A WHOLE SERIES OF FICTIONAL NARRATIVES ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE HULK?!"
WAS THERE NO ASPECT OF MY LIFE THAT WENT UNOBSERVED BY YOUR KRYLORIAN CAMERAS?
NONE.
THEN YOU MUST KNOW ALMOST AS MUCH ABOUT ME... AS I DO!
PERHAPS MORE.
JUST THEN, A FANFARE* SOUNDS THROUGHOUT THE OTHERWISE QUIET RESTAURANT...
WHAT THE DEVIL--?
OH, MY!
*NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE CLASSY COMIC MAG THAT'S TAKING FANDOM BY STORM.-- EDITORI-AL.
IN HONOR OF ZE FAMOUS DR. BRUCE BANNER-- BETTER KNOWN TO ZE WORLD AS ZE INCROYABLE HULK--ZIS DINNER IS ON ZE HOUSE!
THE FOOD-- THE WINE --THEY'VE COLORED IT ALL... GREEN!
10

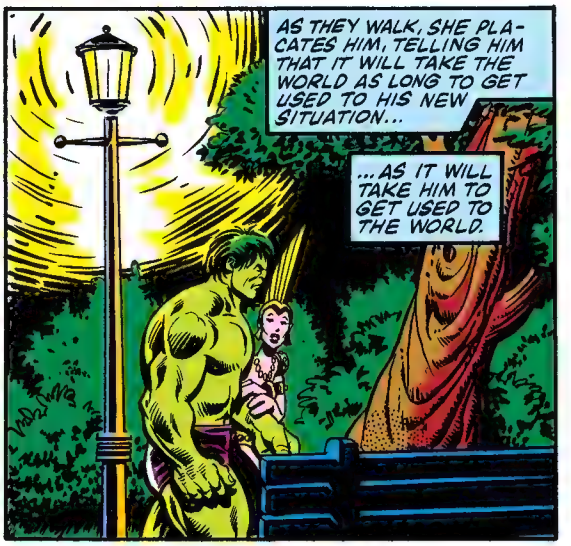
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU ARE NOW SEEING HOW THE INCREDIBLE HULK RELAXES DURING HIS OFF-HOURS...
HOW I TRY TO RELAX, YOU MEAN!
LOOK! THE ICE CREAM--IT IS PISTACHIO!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, DR. BANNER? I RECOGNIZED YOU AS SOON AS YOU CAME IN AND, BEING A CELEBRITY, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO MEET THE PRESS...
YOU ARRANGED THIS, AFTER I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED PRIVACY?!
OF ALL THE INCONSIDERATE, INSULTING INTRUSIONS...!
PLEASE, DR. BANNER --TRY TO REMAIN CALM!
WHY, BEREET? CALM OR ANGRY, I CONTROL THE CHANGE NOW... IT DOESN'T CONTROL ME!
I CAN BECOME THE HULK WHENEVER I WANT TO!
AND RIGHT NOW--I WANT TO!!!

YOU WANTED PUBLICITY FOR YOUR LOUSY RESTAURANT? WELL THE INCREDIBLE HULK WILL GIVE YOU PUBLICITY BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!
L-LOOK OUT!
HE'S BECOME A RAGING BEAST!
A MONSTER!!!
THAT'S RIGHT--A MONSTER, A GREEN GOLIATH, A HULK!
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO SEE--THAT'S WHAT YOU GOT!
OH, BY THE WAY-- I DON'T LIKE PISTACHIO!
WITH THAT FINAL BIT OF INVECTIVE, THE INCREDIBLE HULK CRASHES OUT OF THE POSH PARISIAN EATERY...
WOW! THIS'LL MAKE SOME FRONT PAGE FOR TOMORROW'S DAILY BUGLE!
YOU ARRANGED THIS... THIS... DEBACLE?! IDIOT! YOU ARE FIRED!!
DR. BANNER! BRUCE!
12


INTO THE NIGHT, THE GREEN BEHEMOTH LUMBERS, PURSUED BY A BIRDLIKE BEING FROM ANOTHER WORLD.

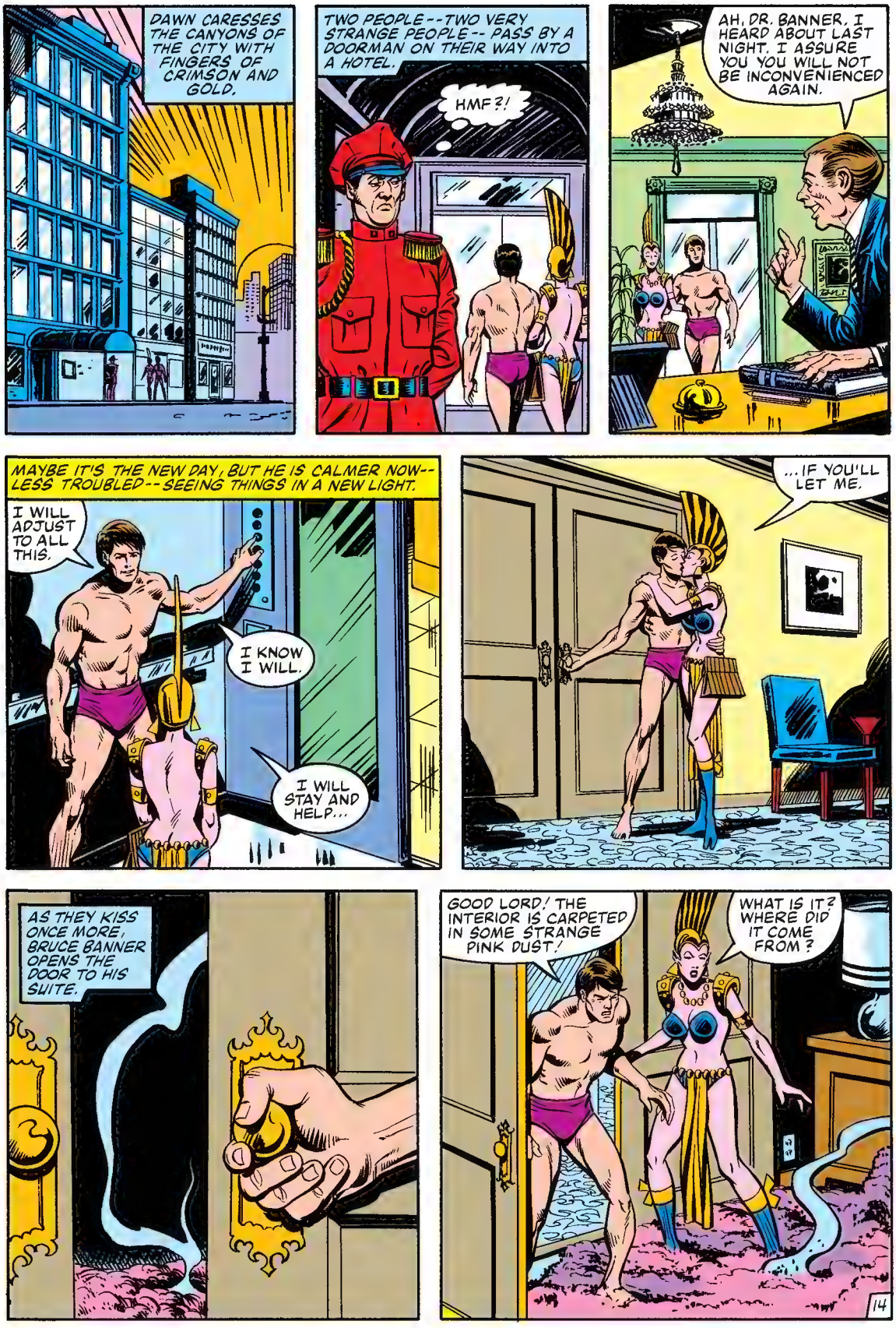

ON A LONELY CORNER, THE TWO CONNECT.
YOU WERE RIGHT TO DO AS YOU DID. THEIR ACTIONS WERE UNSPEAKABLE.

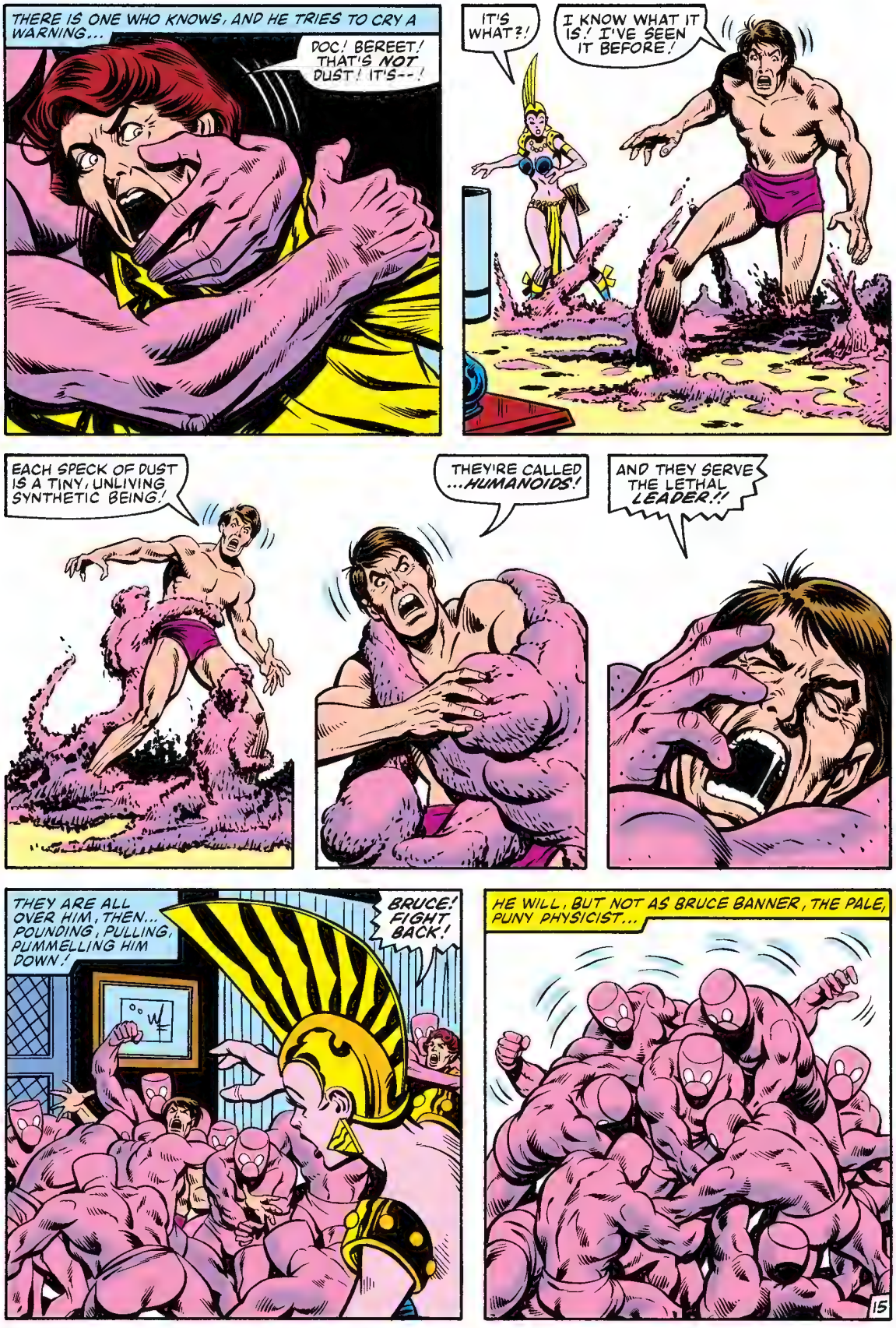

SHE APPROVES OF HIS ACTIONS, SOMETHING ANOTHER WOMAN -- A WOMAN HE LOVES -- WOULD NOT HAVE DONE.

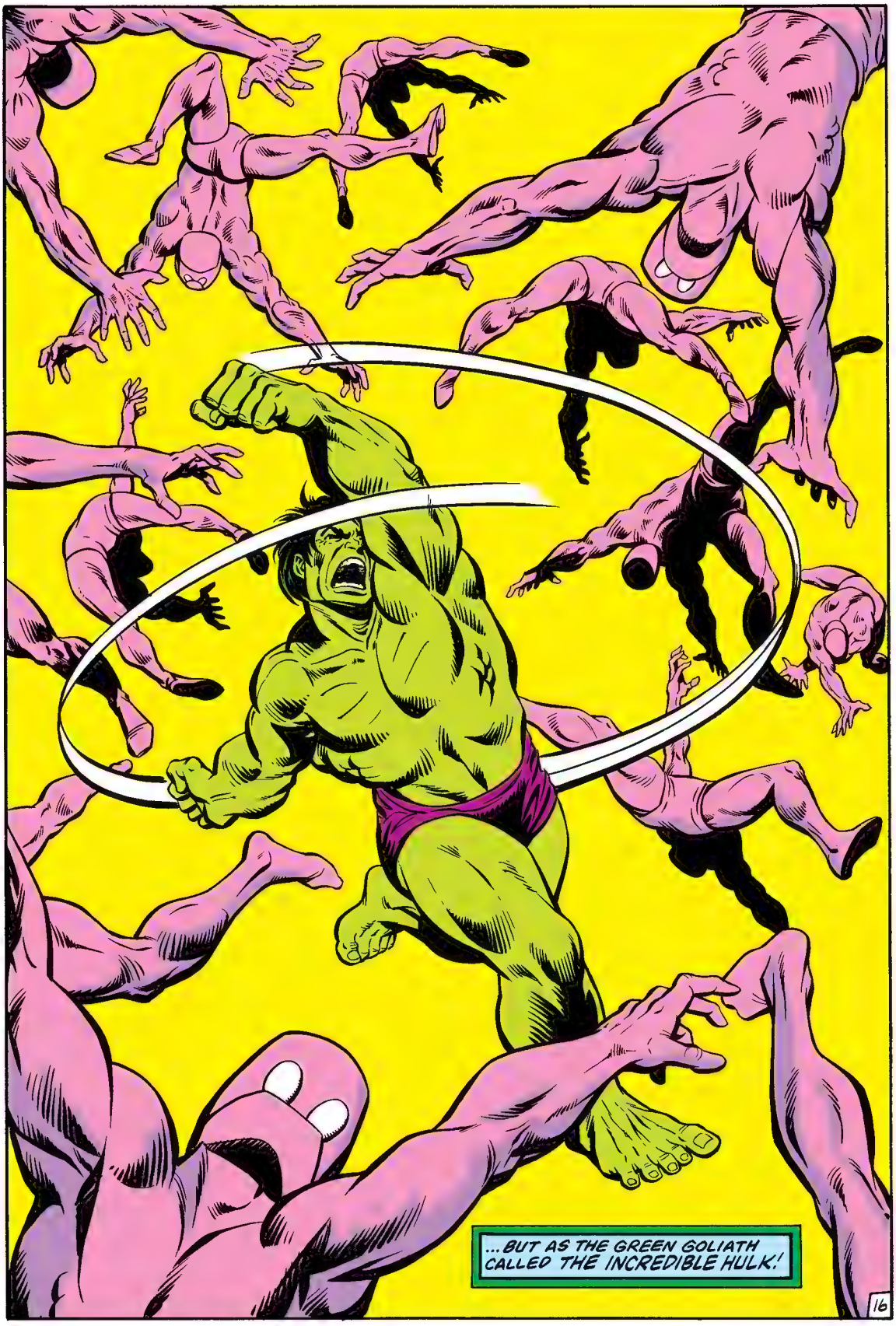

AS THEY WALK, SHE PLACATES HIM, TELLING HIM THAT IT WILL TAKE THE WORLD AS LONG TO GET USED TO HIS NEW SITUATION...
...AS IT WILL TAKE HIM TO GET USED TO THE WORLD.

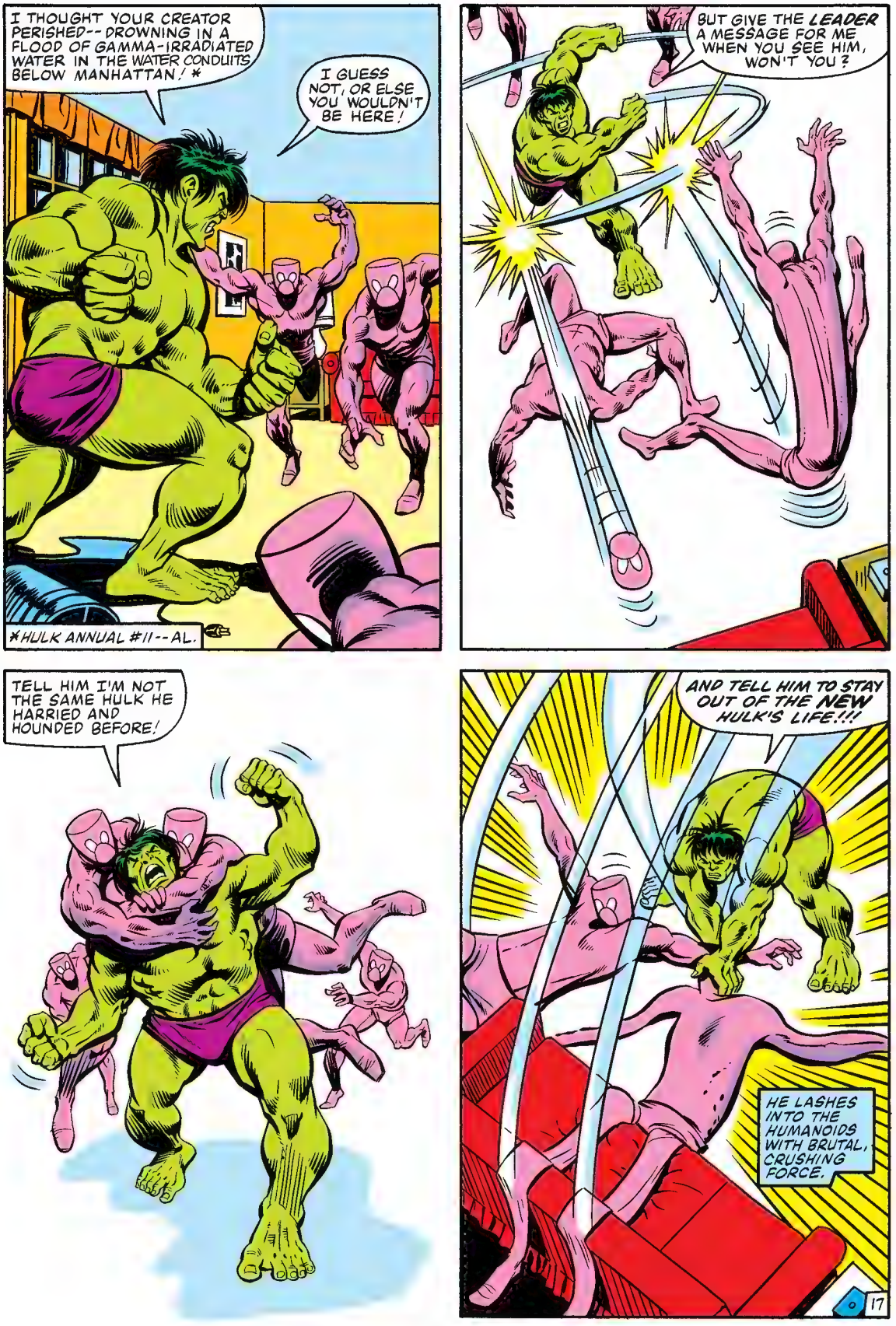
FINALLY, HIS ANGER PASSES, AND THE REFRAIN TO A SONG HE HEARD SOMEWHERE, SOMEWHEN, RUNS THROUGH HIS HEAD...

IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE, THEN LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH.
13

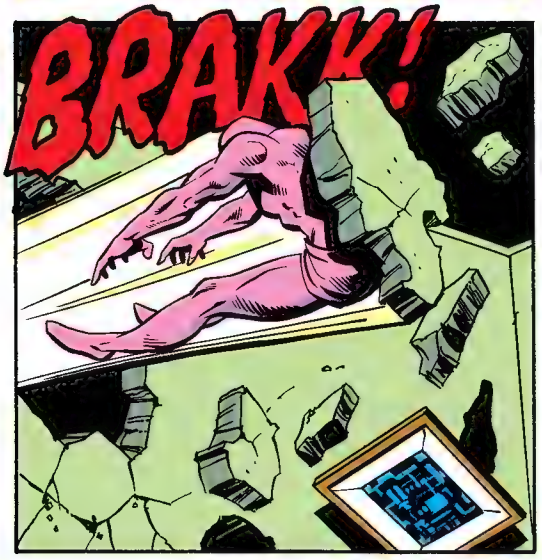

DAWN CARESSES THE CANYONS OF THE CITY WITH FINGERS OF CRIMSON AND GOLD.
TWO PEOPLE--TWO VERY STRANGE PEOPLE-- PASS BY A DOORMAN ON THEIR WAY INTO A HOTEL.
HMF?!
AH, DR. BANNER, I HEARD ABOUT LAST NIGHT. I ASSURE YOU YOU WILL NOT BE INCONVENIENCED AGAIN.
MAYBE IT'S THE NEW DAY, BUT HE IS CALMER NOW-- LESS TROUBLED-- SEEING THINGS IN A NEW LIGHT.
I WILL ADJUST TO ALL THIS.
I KNOW I WILL.
I WILL STAY AND HELP...
...IF YOU'LL LET ME.
AS THEY KISS ONCE MORE, BRUCE BANNER OPENS THE DOOR TO HIS SUITE.
GOOD LORD! THE INTERIOR IS CARPETED IN SOME STRANGE PINK DUST!
WHAT IS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
14

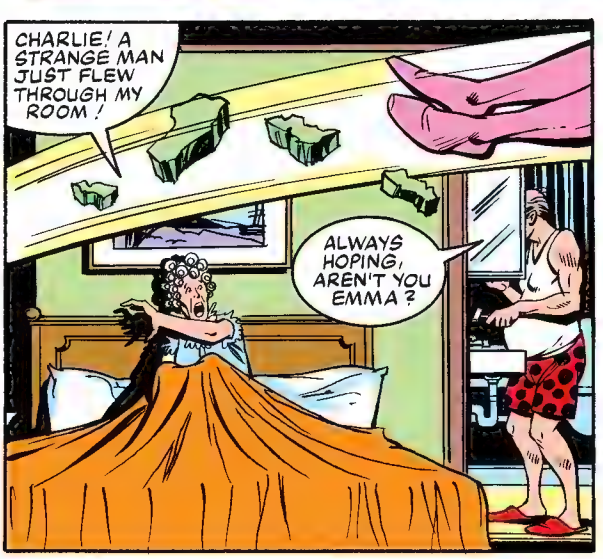

THERE IS ONE WHO KNOWS, AND HE TRIES TO CRY A WARNING...
DOC! BEREET! THAT'S NOT DUST! IT'S--!
IT'S WHAT?!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS! I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE!
EACH SPECK OF DUST IS A TINY, UNLIVING SYNTHETIC BEING!
THEY'RE CALLED ...HUMANOIDS!
AND THEY SERVE THE LETHAL LEADER!!
THEY ARE ALL OVER HIM, THEN... POUNDING, PULLING, PUMMELLING HIM DOWN!
BRUCE! FIGHT BACK!
HE WILL, BUT NOT AS BRUCE BANNER, THE PALE, PUNY PHYSICIST...
15

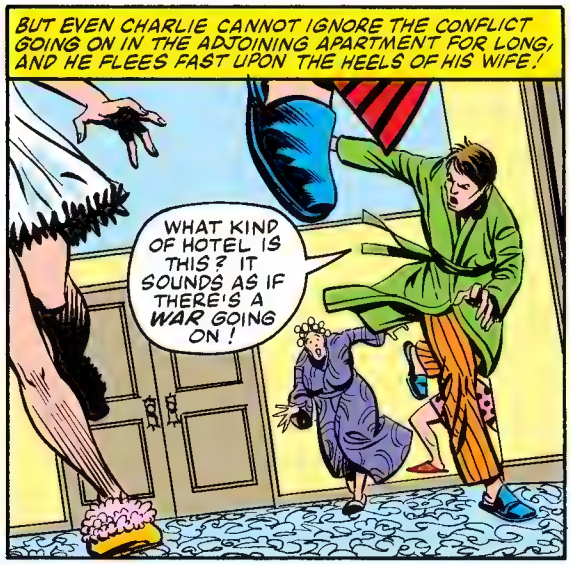

...BUT AS THE GREEN GOLIATH CALLED THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
16

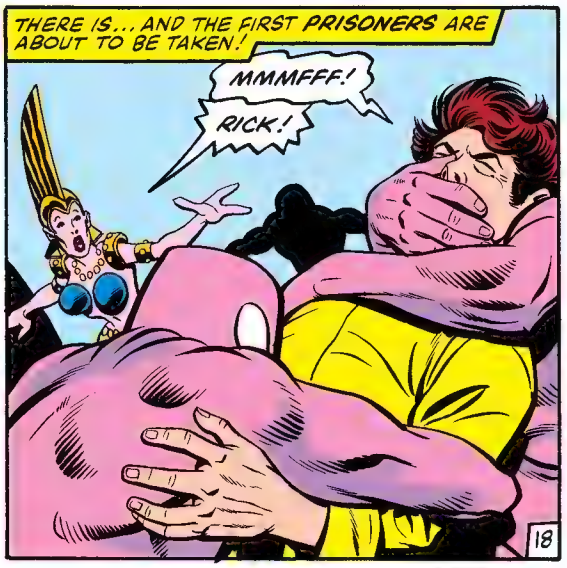

I THOUGHT YOUR CREATOR PERISHED-- DROWNING IN A FLOOD OF GAMMA-IRRADIATED WATER IN THE WATER CONDUITS BELOW MANHATTAN! *
I GUESS NOT, OR ELSE YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE!
*HULK ANNUAL #11--AL.
BUT GIVE THE LEADER A MESSAGE FOR ME WHEN YOU SEE HIM, WON'T YOU?
TELL HIM I'M NOT THE SAME HULK HE HARRIED AND HOUNDED BEFORE!
AND TELL HIM TO STAY OUT OF THE NEW HULK'S LIFE!!!
HE LASHES INTO THE HUMANOIDS WITH BRUTAL, CRUSHING FORCE.
17

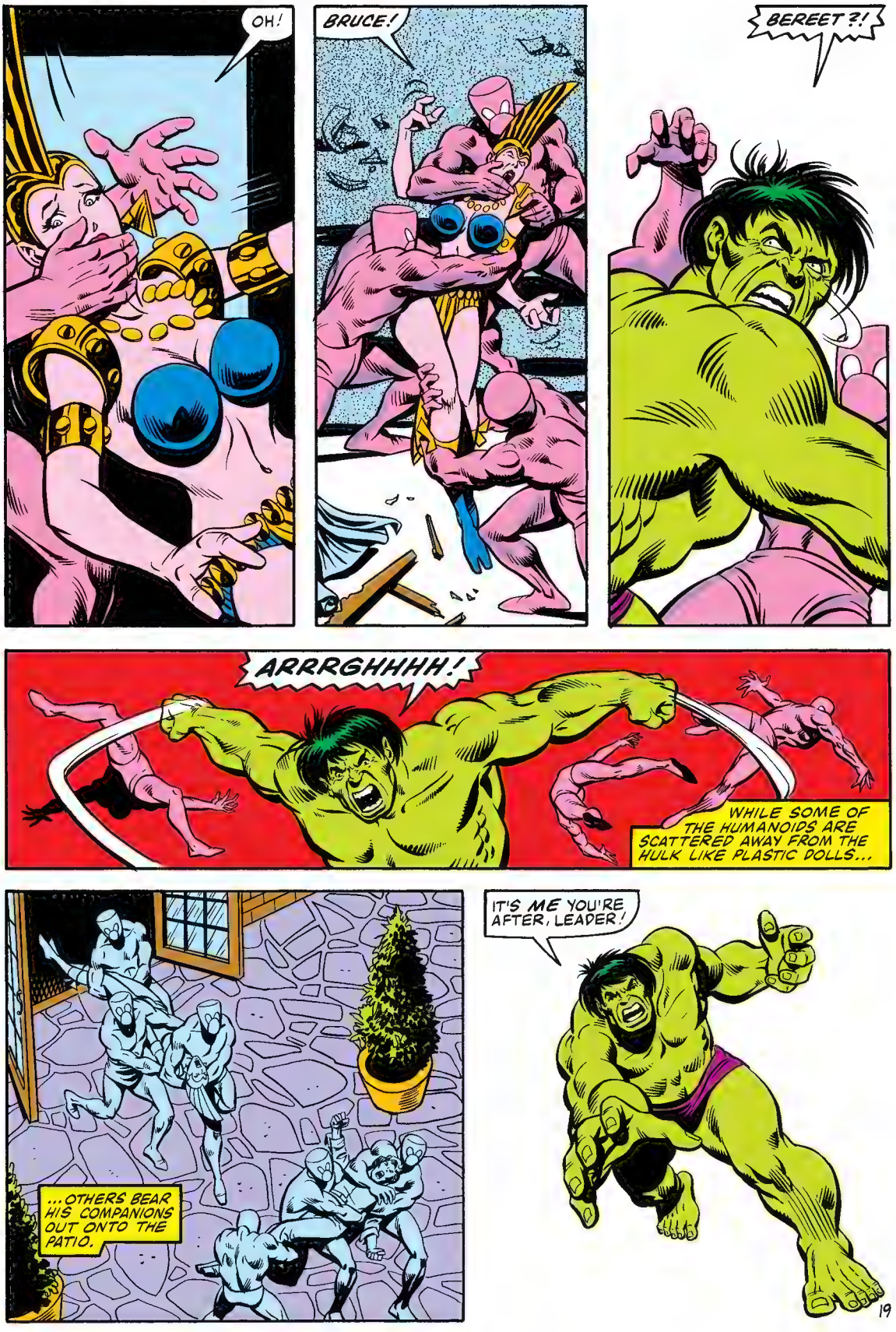
KNOWING THEY ARE INHUMAN, INCAPABLE OF FEELING PAIN...
...HE VENTS UPON THEM ALL THE ANGER AND FRUSTRATION THAT HAS BEEN WELLING UP WITHIN HIM THESE PAST FEW DAYS!


BRAKK!

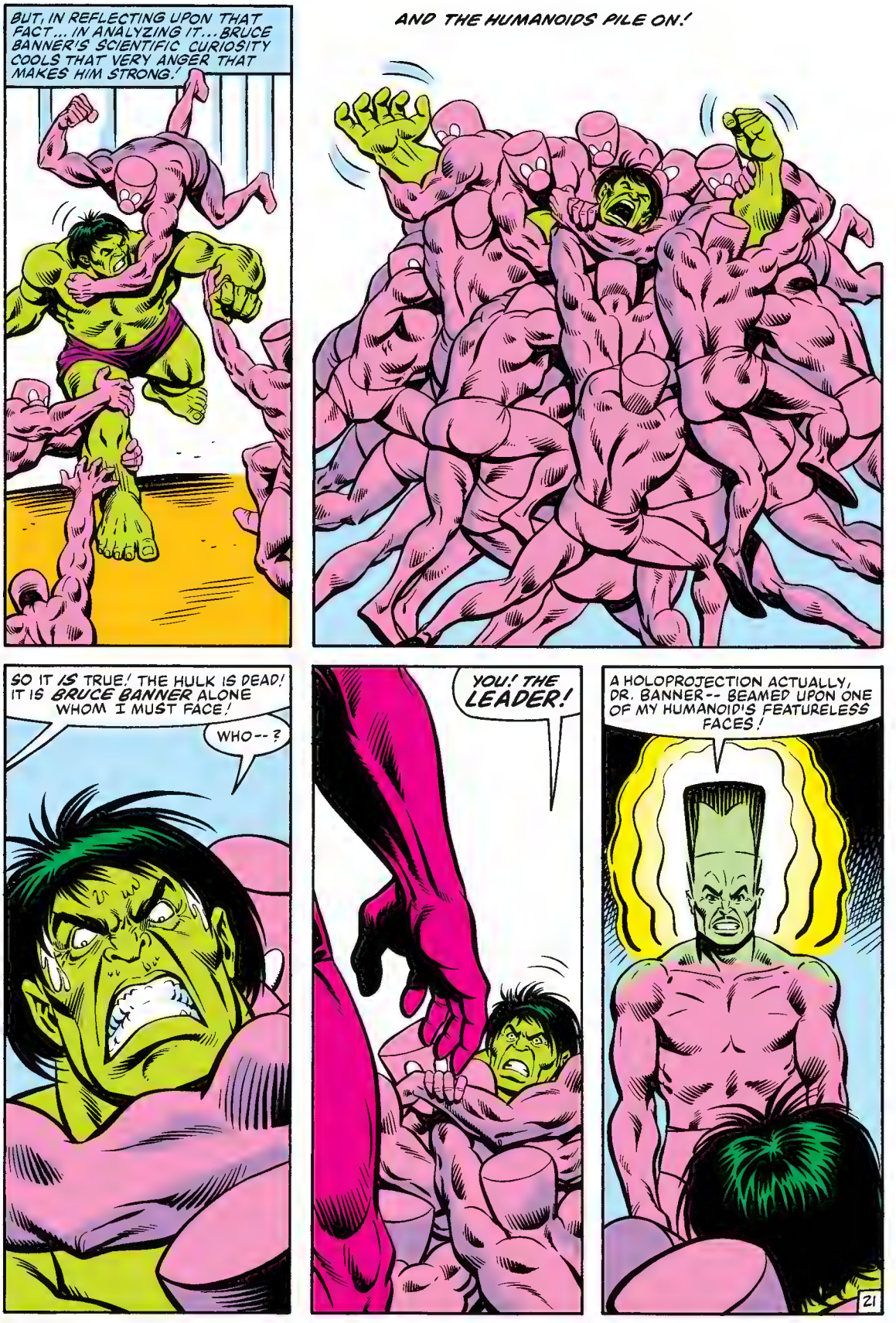

CHARLIE! A STRANGE MAN JUST FLEW THROUGH MY ROOM!
ALWAYS HOPING, AREN'T YOU EMMA?

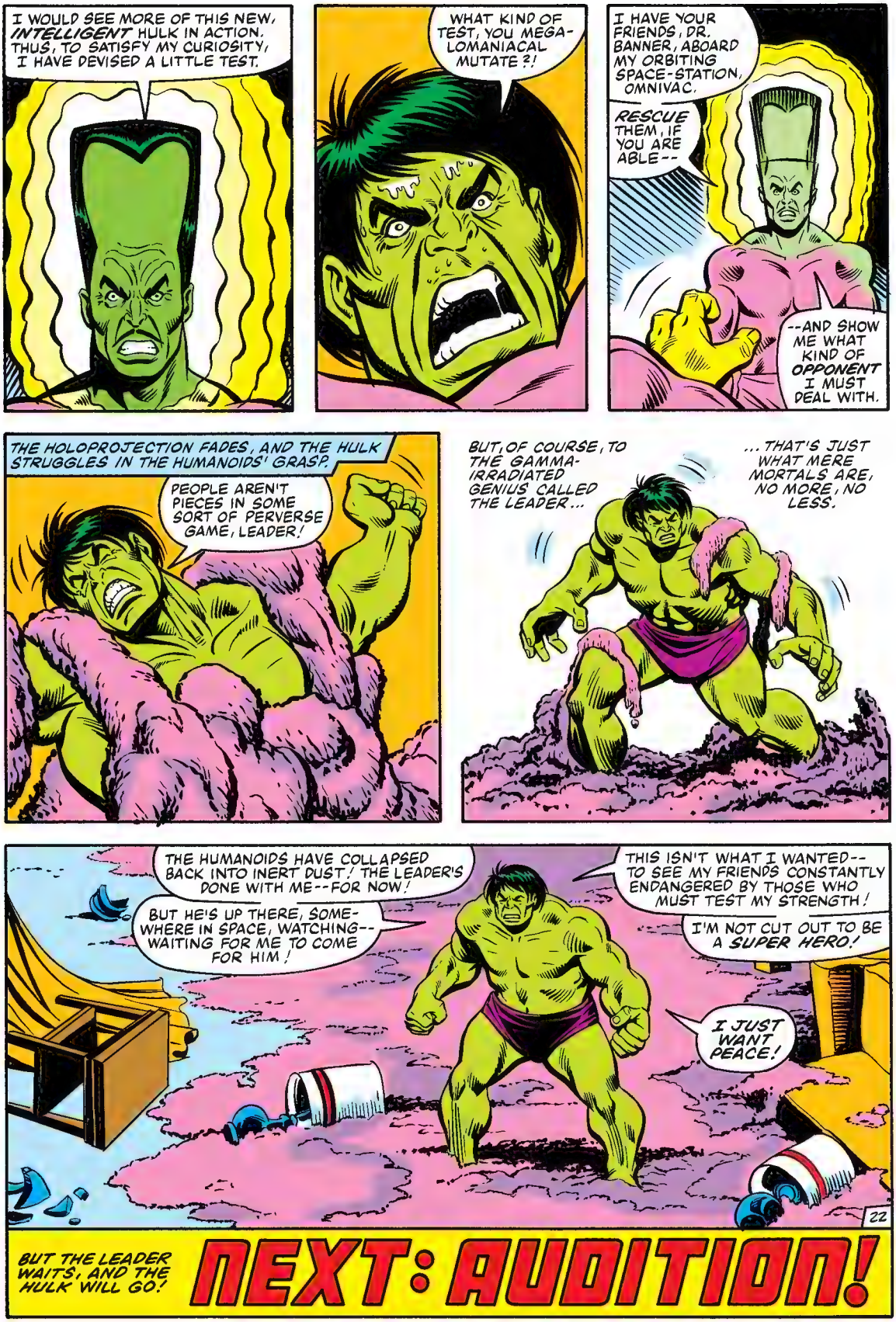

BUT EVEN CHARLIE CANNOT IGNORE THE CONFLICT GOING ON IN THE ADJOINING APARTMENT FOR LONG, AND HE FLEES FAST UPON THE HEELS OF HIS WIFE!
WHAT KIND OF HOTEL IS THIS? IT SOUNDS AS IF THERE'S A WAR GOING ON!


THERE IS... AND THE FIRST PRISONERS ARE ABOUT TO BE TAKEN!
MMMFFF!
RICK!
18


OH!
BRUCE!
BEREET?!
ARRRGHHHH!
WHILE SOME OF THE HUMANOIDS ARE SCATTERED AWAY FROM THE HULK LIKE PLASTIC DOLLS...
...OTHERS BEAR HIS COMPANIONS OUT ONTO THE PATIO.
IT'S ME YOU'RE AFTER, LEADER!
19

LEAVE MY FRIENDS ALONE!
BUT...
NO! CURSE YOU, LEADER! CURSE YOU!
THEY'RE GONE! TELEPORTED AWAY!
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE, SO I CAN'T LEAP AFTER THEM!
I CAN, HOWEVER, DEAL WITH THE REST OF THE LEADER'S SYNTHETIC KIDNAPPERS!
AGAIN THE ANGER! AGAIN THE RAGE!
HE FEELS HIS STRENGTH GROWING IN PROPORTION TO HIS EMOTION! HE REALIZES THAT THAT IS WHAT MADE THE HULK A FORCE TO BE FEARED!
20


BUT, IN REFLECTING UPON THAT FACT... IN ANALYZING IT... BRUCE BANNER'S SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY COOLS THAT VERY ANGER THAT MAKES HIM STRONG!
AND THE HUMANOIDS PILE ON!
SO IT IS TRUE! THE HULK IS DEAD! IT IS BRUCE BANNER ALONE WHOM I MUST FACE!
WHO--?
YOU! THE LEADER!
A HOLOPROJECTION ACTUALLY, DR. BANNER-- BEAMED UPON ONE OF MY HUMANOID'S FEATURELESS FACES!
21


I WOULD SEE MORE OF THIS NEW, INTELLIGENT HULK IN ACTION. THUS, TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY, I HAVE DEVISED A LITTLE TEST.
WHAT KIND OF TEST, YOU MEGA-LOMANIACAL MUTATE?!
I HAVE YOUR FRIENDS, DR. BANNER, ABOARD MY ORBITING SPACE-STATION, OMNIVAC.
RESCUE THEM, IF YOU ARE ABLE--
--AND SHOW ME WHAT KIND OF OPPONENT I MUST DEAL WITH.
THE HOLOPROJECTION FADES, AND THE HULK STRUGGLES IN THE HUMANOIDS' GRASP.
PEOPLE AREN'T PIECES IN SOME SORT OF PERVERSE GAME, LEADER!
BUT, OF COURSE, TO THE GAMMA-IRRADIATED GENIUS CALLED THE LEADER...
... THAT'S JUST WHAT MERE MORTALS ARE, NO MORE, NO LESS.
THE HUMANOIDS HAVE COLLAPSED BACK INTO INERT DUST! THE LEADER'S DONE WITH ME--FOR NOW!
BUT HE'S UP THERE, SOMEWHERE IN SPACE, WATCHING--WAITING FOR ME TO COME FOR HIM!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED--TO SEE MY FRIENDS CONSTANTLY ENDANGERED BY THOSE WHO MUST TEST MY STRENGTH!
I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE A SUPER HERO!
I JUST WANT PEACE!
22
BUT THE LEADER WAITS, AND THE HULK WILL GO!
NEXT: AUDITION!

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
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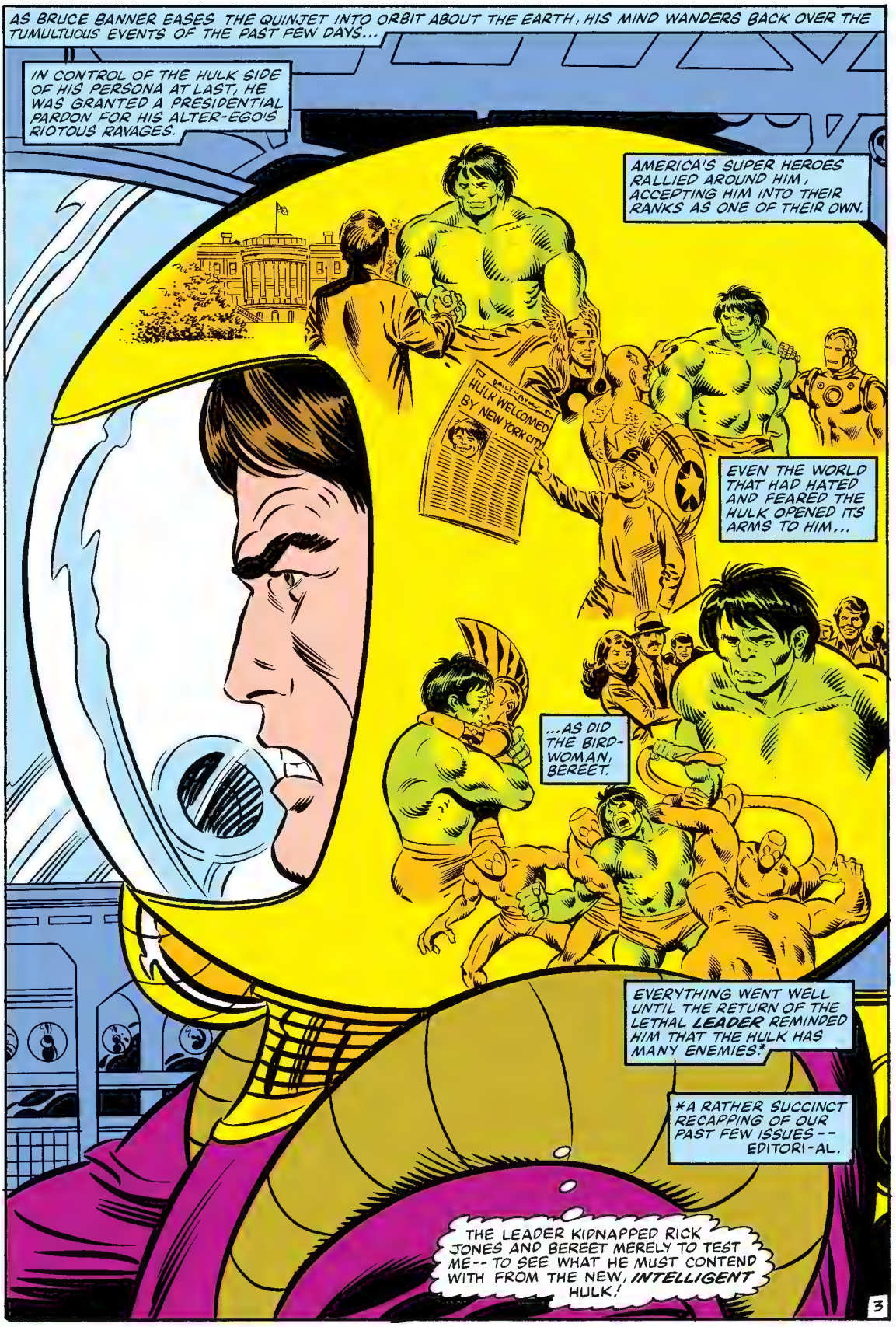
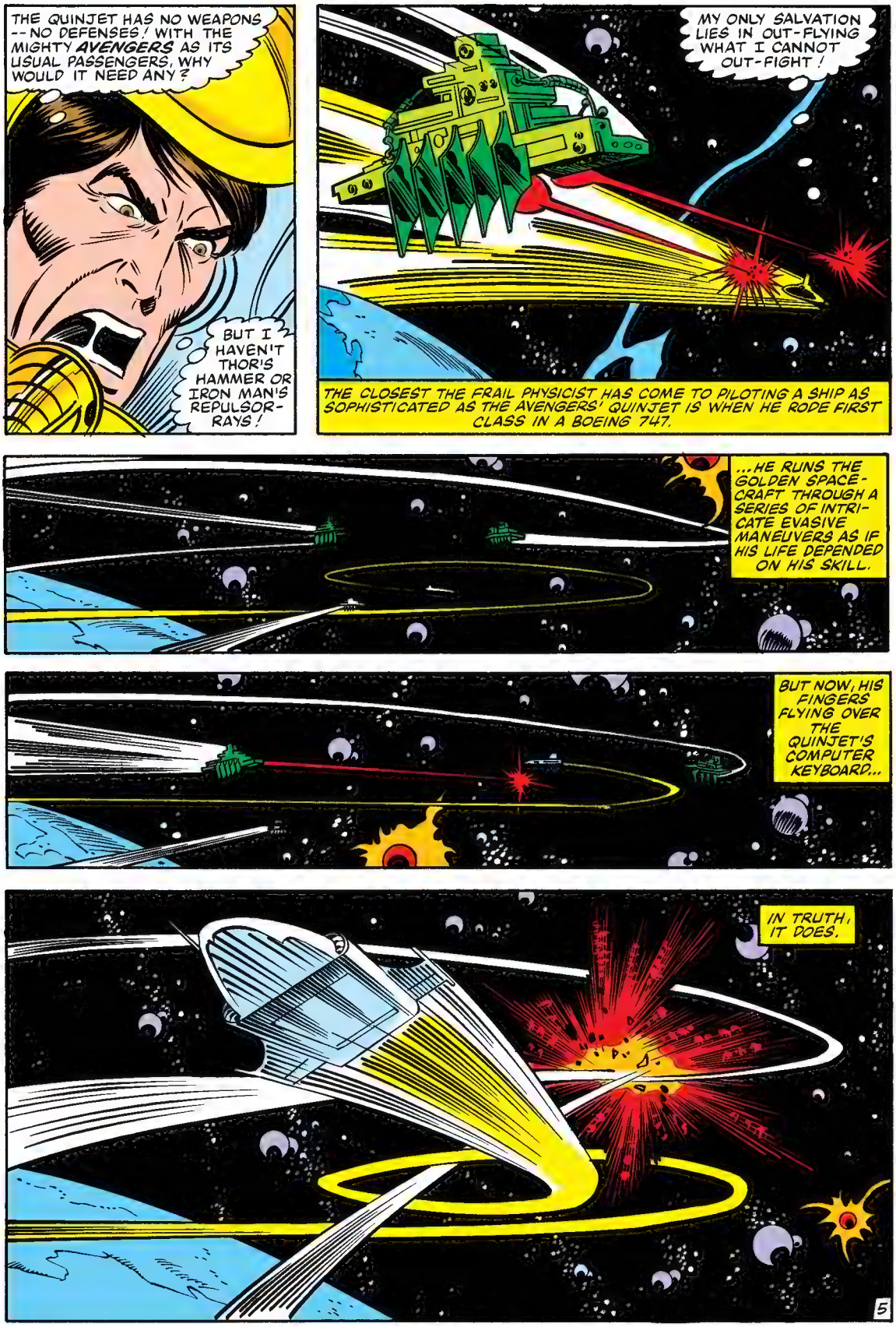
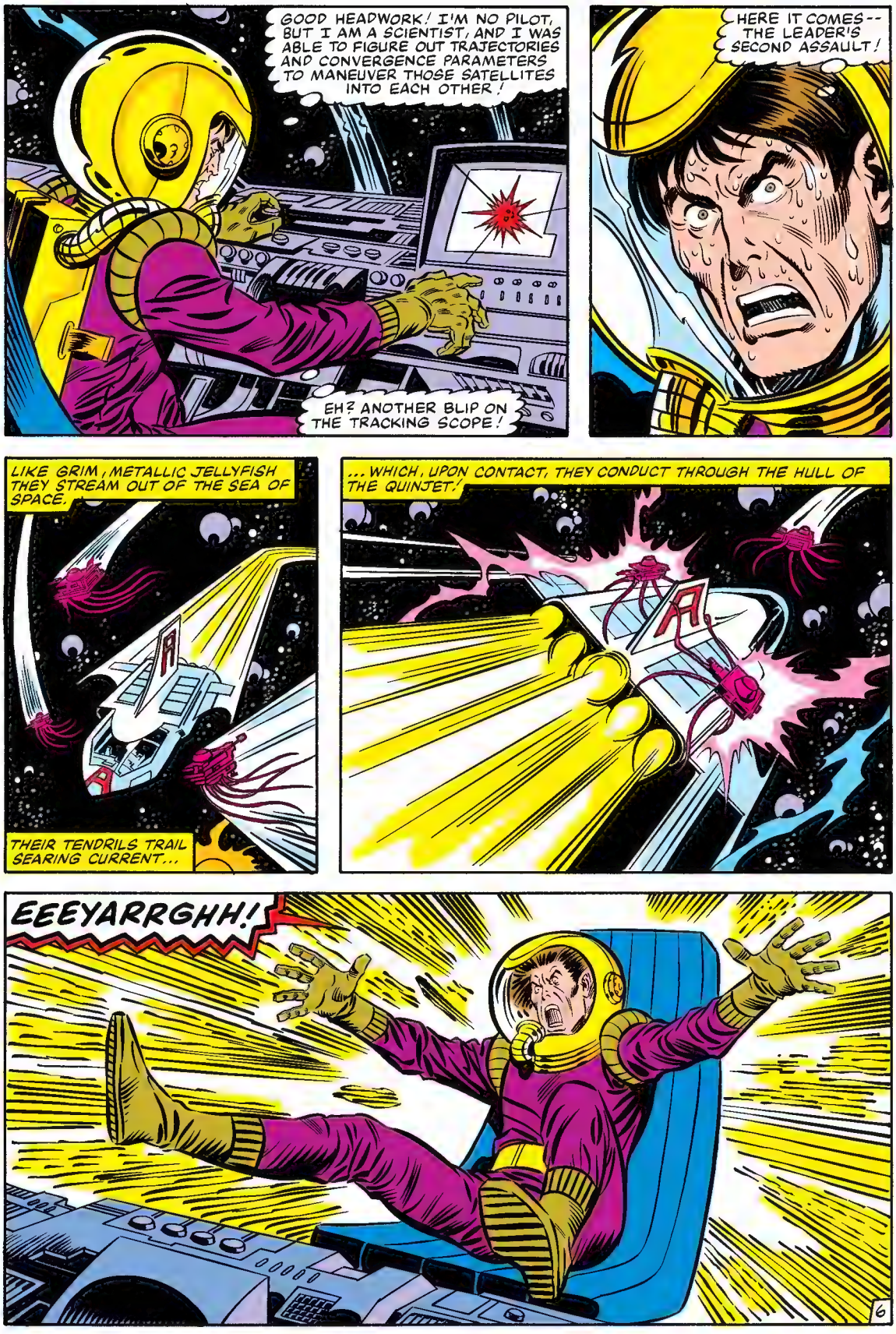
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
BILL MANTLO WRITER / SAL BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT ARTISTS / JIM NOVAK LETTERS / BOB SHAREN COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER LEADER
AUDITION!
WHERE DO YOU GO IF YOUR NAME IS BRUCE BANNER, AND YOU NEED TO GET YOUR HANDS ON A SPACESHIP IN A HURRY?
AND WITH THE AUXILLARY ROCKET ASSEMBLY STARK INDUSTRIES PROVIDED, THE SHIP CAN TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE ITSELF!
THANKS, AVENGERS!
YOU MIGHT GO TO THE MANSION HEADQUARTERS OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES--AND ASK THEIR AID.
1

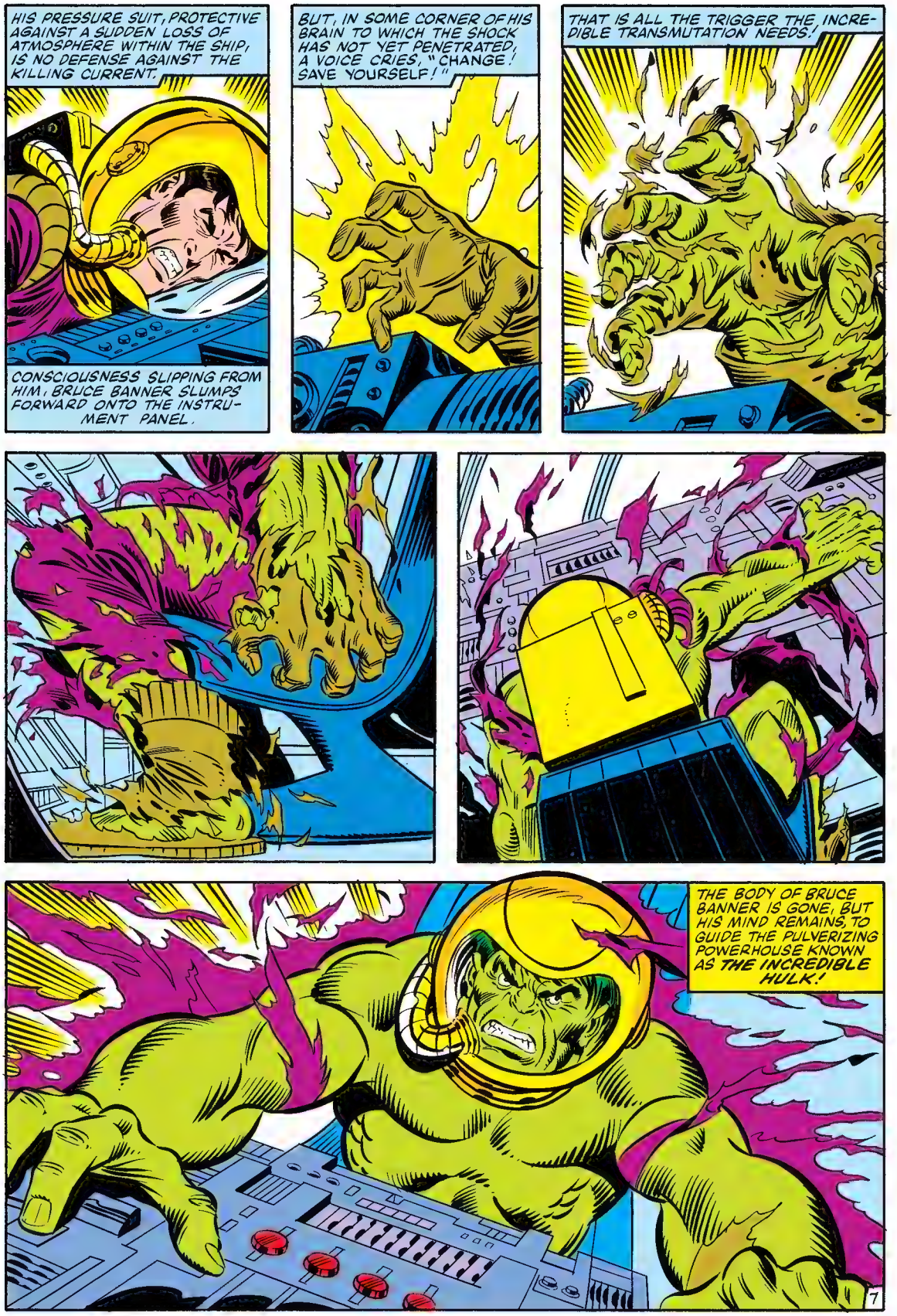
THE STALWART SEPTET--THOR, THE NEW CAPTAIN MARVEL, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, THE WASP, HAWKEYE AND SHE-HULK-- WATCH AS THEIR GOLDEN CRAFT RISES OUT OF SIGHT.
SHOULD WE NOT HAVE ACCOMPANIED BRUCE BANNER?
WE OFFERED, THOR-- BUT HE SAID THIS WAS ONE MISSION HE HAD TO UNDERTAKE ALONE!
MAN OR MONSTER, BRUCE BANNER HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALONE.
I HOPE HE HAS THE STRENGTH TO FACE WHATEVER IT IS HE'S UP AGAINST!
LADY, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
YES... MY COUSIN!
BE CAREFUL, BRUCE-- AND CALL FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT! THE AVENGERS WILL COME RUNNING!
MEANWHILE, MILES ABOVE THE EARTH...
IT WAS ALMOST UNNECESSARY FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA TO SHOW ME HOW TO PILOT THE QUINJET-- THE SHIP SEEMS TO FLY ITSELF. TONY STARK'S ENGINEERS REALLY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING WHEN THEY DESIGNED THIS CRAFT.
ALL I NEED DO IS KEY IN MY DESTINATION. A SIMPLE TASK...
IF I KNEW WHERE I WAS GOING!
2

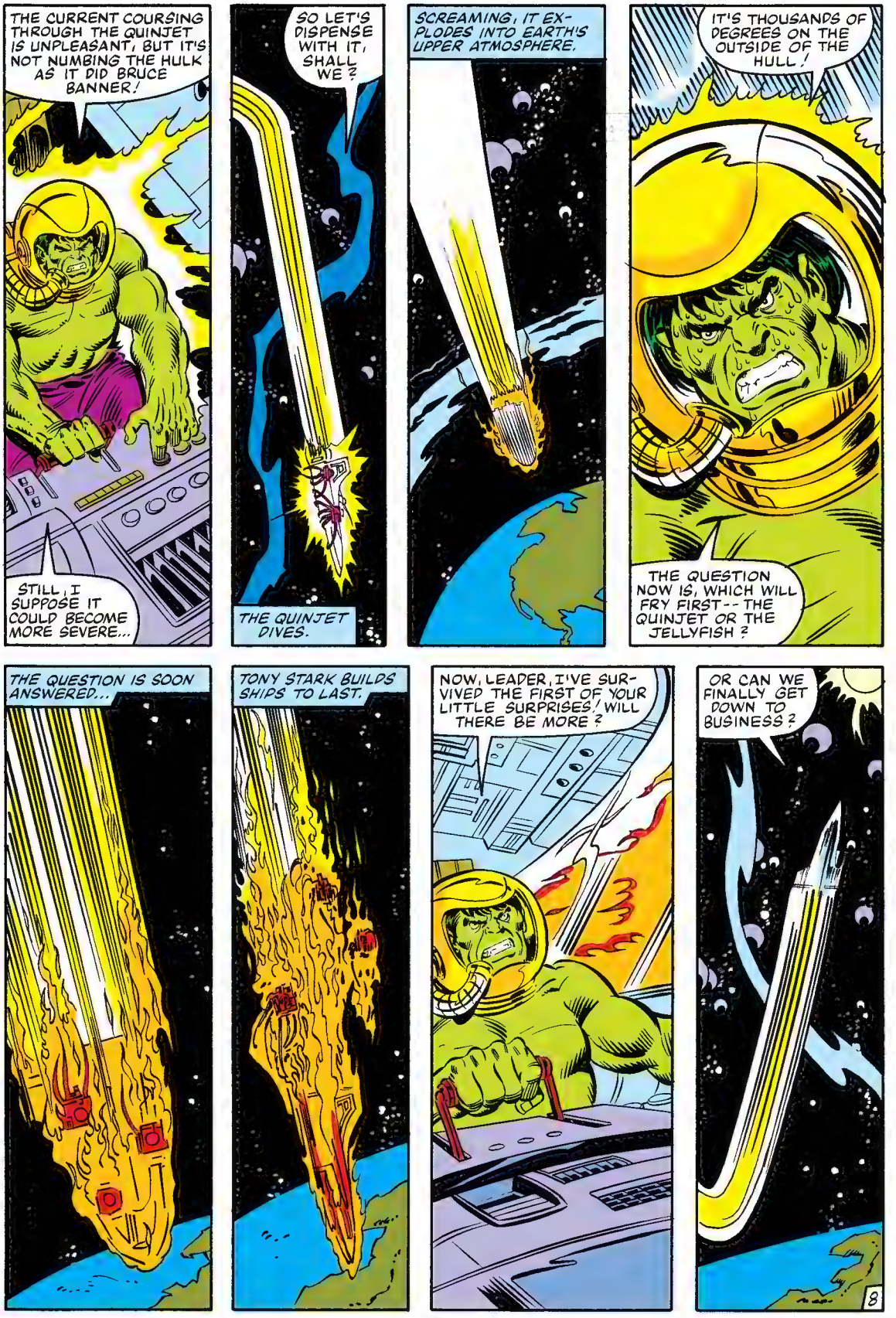

AS BRUCE BANNER EASES THE QUINJET INTO ORBIT ABOUT THE EARTH, HIS MIND WANDERS BACK OVER THE TUMULTUOUS EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS...
IN CONTROL OF THE HULK SIDE OF HIS PERSONA AT LAST, HE WAS GRANTED A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR HIS ALTER-EGO'S RIOTOUS RAVAGES.
AMERICA'S SUPER HEROES RALLIED AROUND HIM, ACCEPTING HIM INTO THEIR RANKS AS ONE OF THEIR OWN.
HULK WELCOMED BY NEW YORK CITY!
EVEN THE WORLD THAT HAD HATED AND FEARED THE HULK OPENED ITS ARMS TO HIM...
...AS DID THE BIRD-WOMAN, BEREET.
EVERYTHING WENT WELL UNTIL THE RETURN OF THE LETHAL LEADER REMINDED HIM THAT THE HULK HAS MANY ENEMIES!*
*A RATHER SUCCINCT RECAPPING OF OUR PAST FEW ISSUES -- EDITORI-AL.
THE LEADER KIDNAPPED RICK JONES AND BEREET MERELY TO TEST ME-- TO SEE WHAT HE MUST CONTEND WITH FROM THE NEW, INTELLIGENT HULK!
3

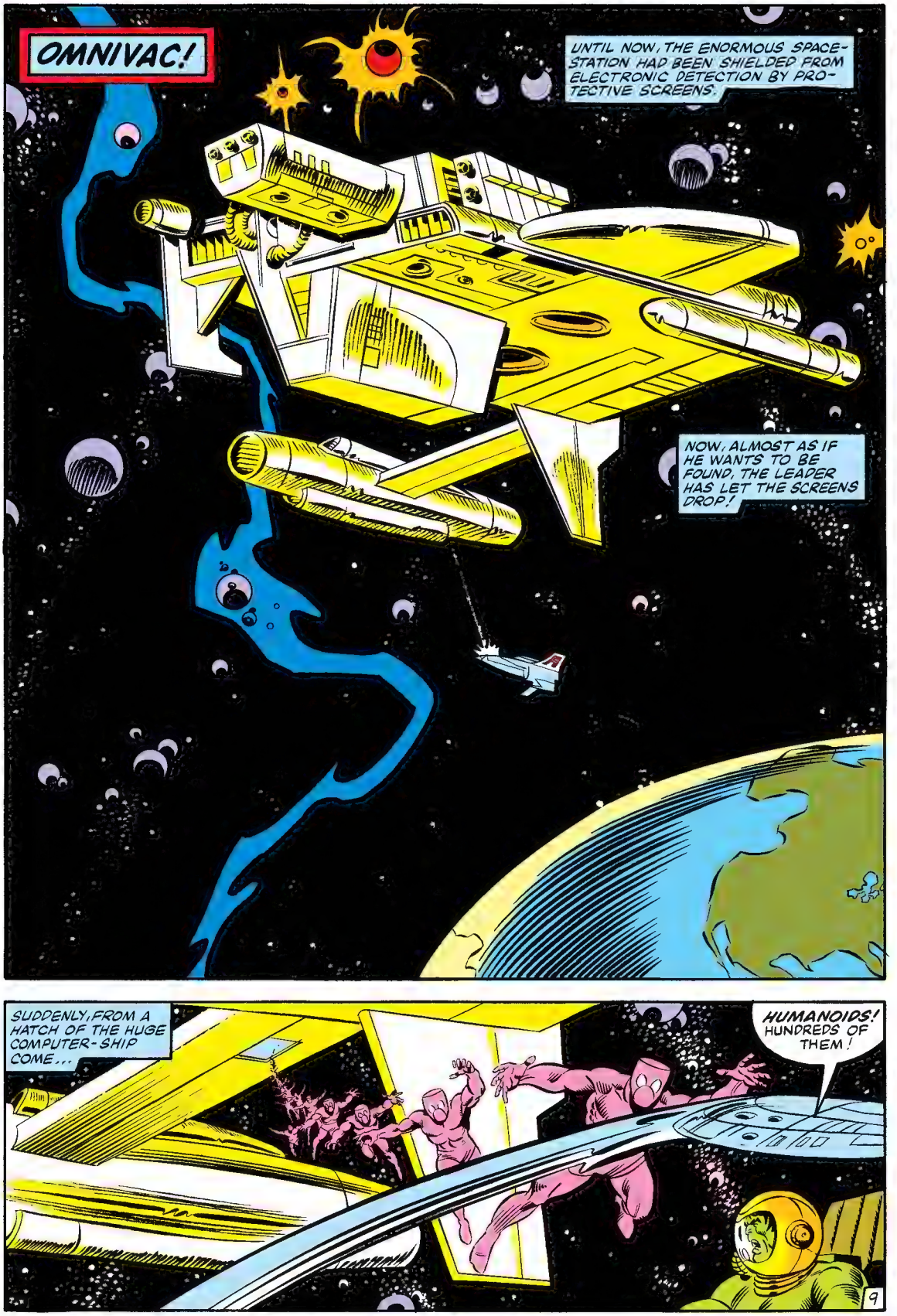
I'M AFRAID I DIDN'T PUT UP A VERY GOOD FIGHT.
OH, I DID ALL RIGHT AGAINST THE LEADER'S HUMANOIDS ONCE I CHANGED TO THE HULK--
--AND MIGHT HAVE TRIUMPHED HAD I CONTINUED TO BE ENRAGED OVER THE KIDNAPPING OF RICK AND BEREET.
BUT I COULDN'T SEEM TO SUSTAIN THE ANGER. I ANALYZED IT-- SUBJECTED IT TO SCIENTIFIC SCRUTINY.
AS THE ANGER FADED, SO PROPORTIONALLY, DID THE HULK'S--MY--STRENGTH SEEM TO FADE.
I'M SURE IT'S THAT "MIND-OVER-MONSTER" EFFECT THAT THE LEADER INTENDS TO TEST--
--SINCE IT WAS ALWAYS THE HULK'S MINDLESS SAVAGERY THAT DEFEATED THE LEADER'S AWESOME INTELLECT IN THE PAST.
EH? WHAT'S THAT, CLOSING IN ON THE QUINJET?!
HUNTER SATELLITES--A SWARM OF THEM--ARMED WITH LASER DEATH-RAYS!
4

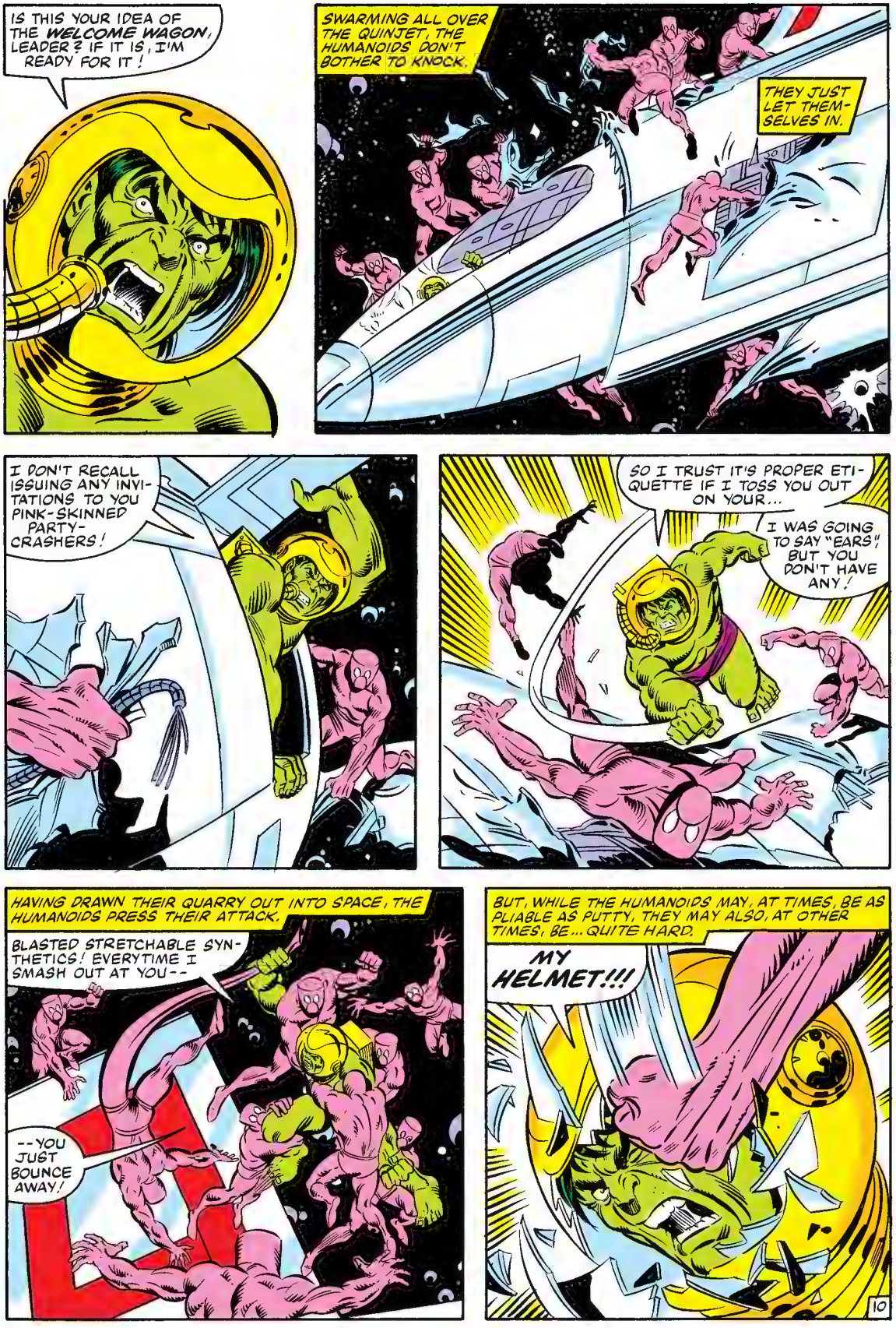

THE QUINJET HAS NO WEAPONS -- NO DEFENSES! WITH THE MIGHTY AVENGERS AS ITS USUAL PASSENGERS, WHY WOULD IT NEED ANY?
BUT I HAVEN'T THOR'S HAMMER OR IRON MAN'S REPULSOR-RAYS!
MY ONLY SALVATION LIES IN OUT-FLYING WHAT I CANNOT OUT-FIGHT!
THE CLOSEST THE FRAIL PHYSICIST HAS COME TO PILOTING A SHIP AS SOPHISTICATED AS THE AVENGERS' QUINJET IS WHEN HE RODE FIRST CLASS IN A BOEING 747.
...HE RUNS THE GOLDEN SPACE-CRAFT THROUGH A SERIES OF INTRI-CATE EVASIVE MANEUVERS AS IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON HIS SKILL.
BUT NOW, HIS FINGERS FLYING OVER THE QUINJET'S COMPUTER KEYBOARD...
IN TRUTH, IT DOES.
5


GOOD HEADWORK! I'M NO PILOT, BUT I AM A SCIENTIST, AND I WAS ABLE TO FIGURE OUT TRAJECTORIES AND CONVERGENCE PARAMETERS TO MANEUVER THOSE SATELLITES INTO EACH OTHER!
EH? ANOTHER BLIP ON THE TRACKING SCOPE!
HERE IT COMES-- THE LEADER'S SECOND ASSAULT!
LIKE GRIM, METALLIC JELLYFISH THEY STREAM OUT OF THE SEA OF SPACE.
THEIR TENDRILS TRAIL SEARING CURRENT...
...WHICH, UPON CONTACT, THEY CONDUCT THROUGH THE HULL OF THE QUINJET!
EEEYARRGHH!
6

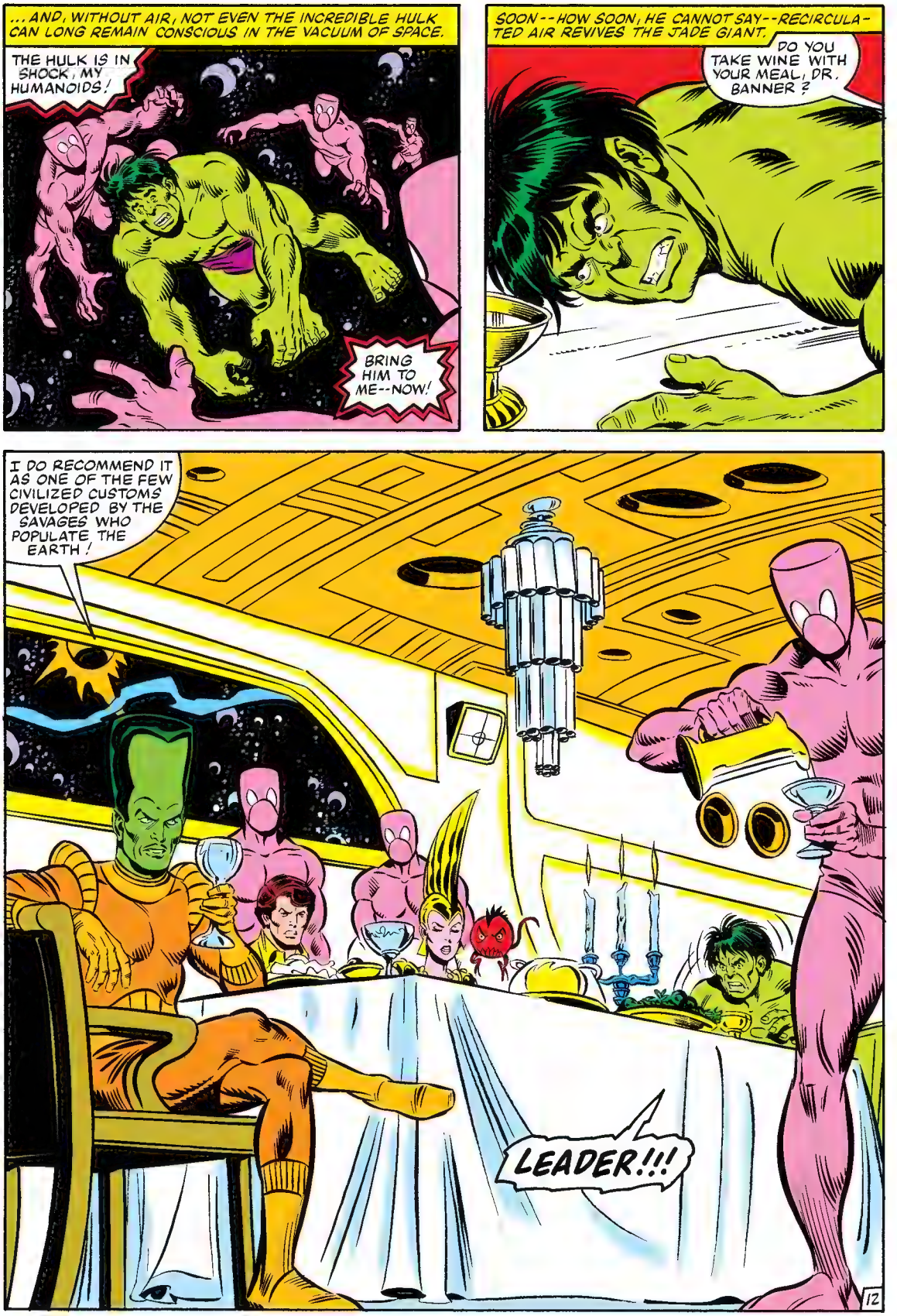

HIS PRESSURE SUIT, PROTECTIVE AGAINST A SUDDEN LOSS OF ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE SHIP, IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST THE KILLING CURRENT.
CONSCIOUSNESS SLIPPING FROM HIM, BRUCE BANNER SLUMPS FORWARD ONTO THE INSTRUMENT PANEL.
BUT, IN SOME CORNER OF HIS BRAIN TO WHICH THE SHOCK HAS NOT YET PENETRATED, A VOICE CRIES, "CHANGE! SAVE YOURSELF!"
THAT IS ALL THE TRIGGER THE INCREDIBLE TRANSMUTATION NEEDS!
THE BODY OF BRUCE BANNER IS GONE, BUT HIS MIND REMAINS, TO GUIDE THE PULVERIZING POWERHOUSE KNOWN AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
7

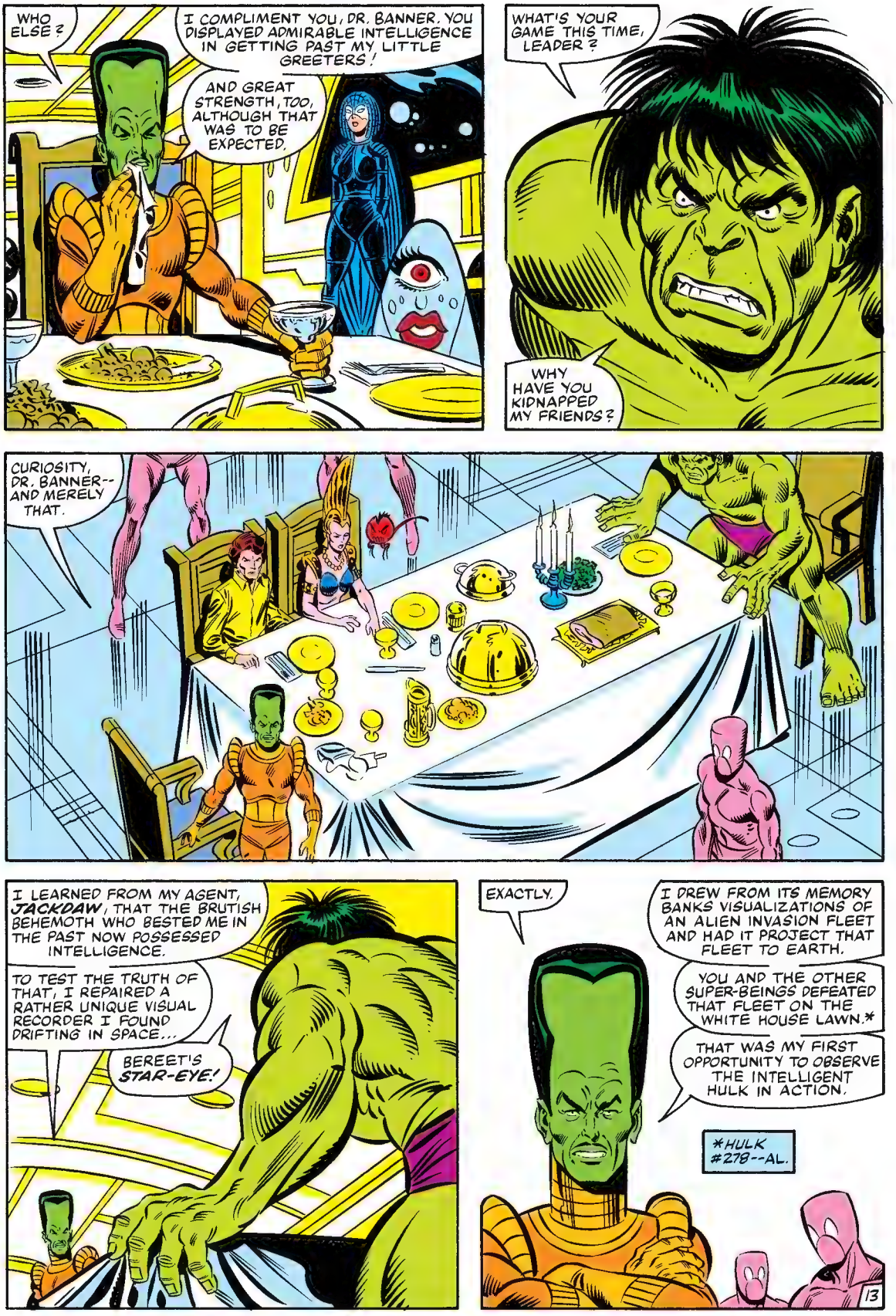

THE CURRENT COURSING THROUGH THE QUINJET IS UNPLEASANT, BUT IT'S NOT NUMBING THE HULK AS IT DID BRUCE BANNER!
STILL, I SUPPOSE IT COULD BECOME MORE SEVERE...
SO LET'S DISPENSE WITH IT, SHALL WE?
THE QUINJET DIVES.
SCREAMING, IT EXPLODES INTO EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE.
IT'S THOUSANDS OF DEGREES ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE HULL!
THE QUESTION NOW IS, WHICH WILL FRY FIRST -- THE QUINJET OR THE JELLYFISH?
THE QUESTION IS SOON ANSWERED...
TONY STARK BUILDS SHIPS TO LAST.
NOW, LEADER, I'VE SURVIVED THE FIRST OF YOUR LITTLE SURPRISES! WILL THERE BE MORE?
OR CAN WE FINALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
8

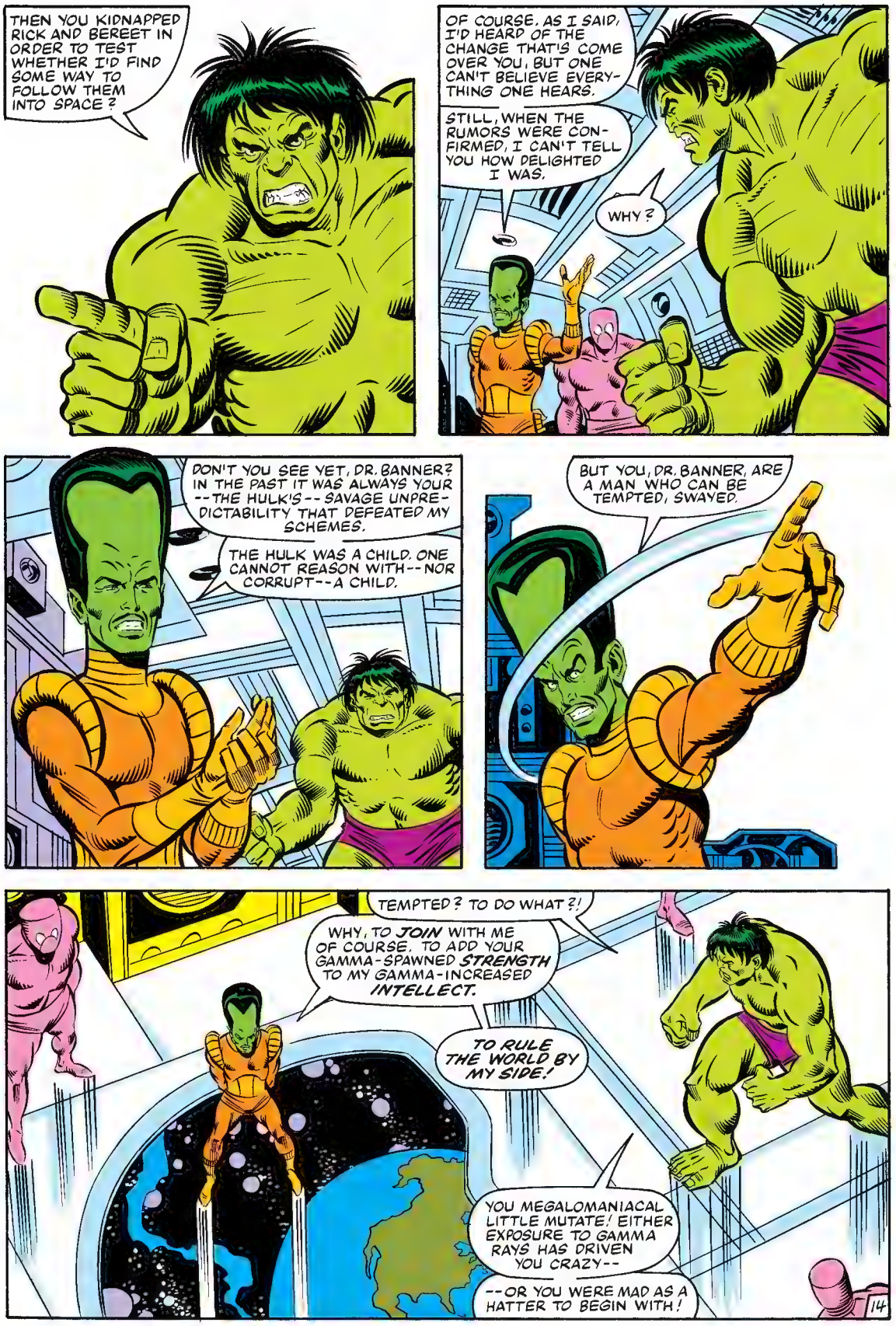

OMNIVAC!
UNTIL NOW, THE ENORMOUS SPACE-STATION HAD BEEN SHIELDED FROM ELECTRONIC DETECTION BY PROTECTIVE SCREENS.
NOW, ALMOST AS IF HE WANTS TO BE FOUND, THE LEADER HAS LET THE SCREENS DROP!
SUDDENLY, FROM A HATCH OF THE HUGE COMPUTER-SHIP COME...
HUMANOIDS! HUNDREDS OF THEM!
9

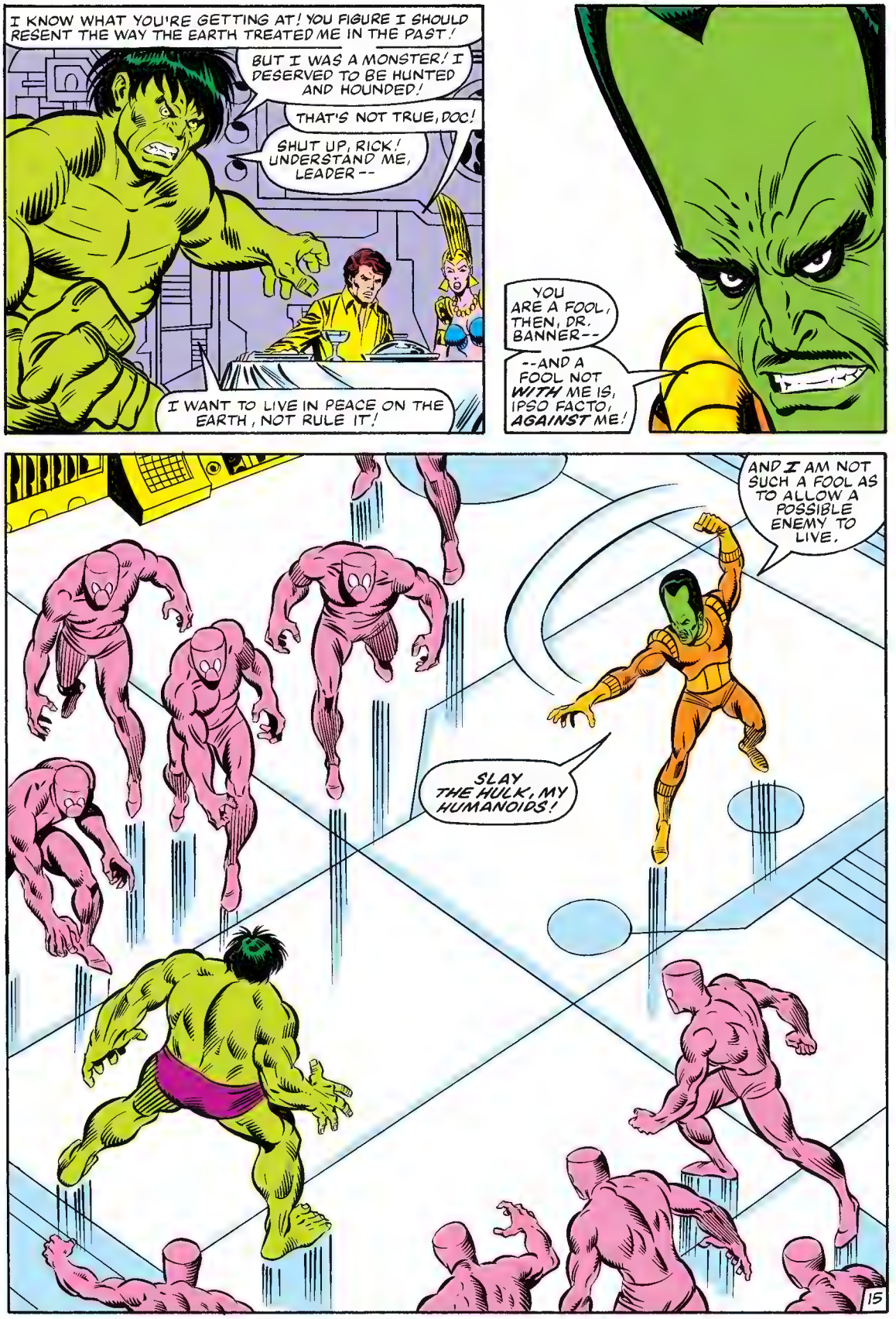

IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF THE WELCOME WAGON, LEADER? IF IT IS, I'M READY FOR IT!
SWARMING ALL OVER THE QUINJET, THE HUMANOIDS DON'T BOTHER TO KNOCK.
THEY JUST LET THEMSELVES IN.
I DON'T RECALL ISSUING ANY INVITATIONS TO YOU PINK-SKINNED PARTY-CRASHERS!
SO I TRUST IT'S PROPER ETIQUETTE IF I TOSS YOU OUT ON YOUR...
I WAS GOING TO SAY "EARS", BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY!
HAVING DRAWN THEIR QUARRY OUT INTO SPACE, THE HUMANOIDS PRESS THEIR ATTACK.
BLASTED STRETCHABLE SYNTHETICS! EVERYTIME I SMASH OUT AT YOU--
--YOU JUST BOUNCE AWAY!
BUT, WHILE THE HUMANOIDS MAY, AT TIMES, BE AS PLIABLE AS PUTTY, THEY MAY ALSO, AT OTHER TIMES, BE... QUITE HARD.
MY HELMET!!!
10

AS BRUCE BANNER FEELS THE OXYGEN TORN FROM HIS LUNGS, HE BEGINS TO PANIC.
FOR A MOMENT, THAT WORKS TO HIS ADVANTAGE...
...FOR PANIC GIVES HIM STRENGTH!
HE USES THAT SURGE OF ADRENALIN TO FLEX THE LEG MUSCLES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND LEAP FROM THE QUINJET TOWARDS OMNIVAC.
HALFWAY THERE, HE REALIZES HIS MISTAKE. WHERE THE HULK WOULD INSTINCTIVELY HAVE HELD HIS BREATH -- AND THUS RETAINED THE STORED OXYGEN IN HIS ENORMOUS LUNGS FOR HOURS -- BRUCE BANNER'S PANIC PRECLUDED CONSERVATION OF AIR...


...AND, WITHOUT AIR, NOT EVEN THE INCREDIBLE HULK CAN LONG REMAIN CONSCIOUS IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE.
THE HULK IS IN SHOCK, MY HUMANOIDS!
BRING HIM TO ME--NOW!
SOON--HOW SOON, HE CANNOT SAY--RECIRCULATED AIR REVIVES THE JADE GIANT.
DO YOU TAKE WINE WITH YOUR MEAL, DR. BANNER?
I DO RECOMMEND IT AS ONE OF THE FEW CIVILIZED CUSTOMS DEVELOPED BY THE SAVAGES WHO POPULATE THE EARTH!
LEADER!!!
12

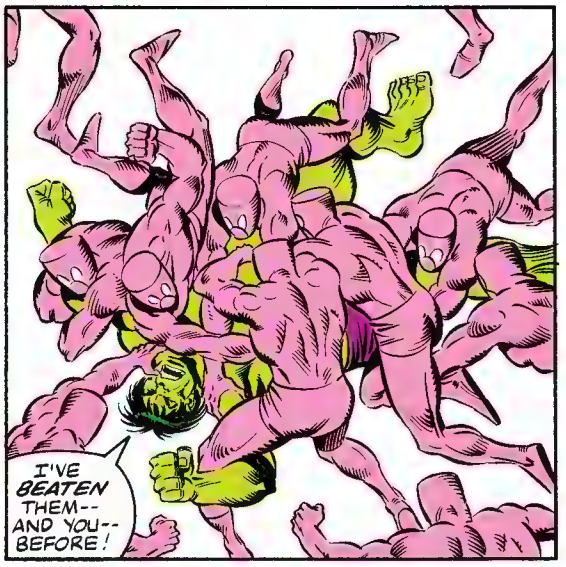

WHO ELSE?
I COMPLIMENT YOU, DR. BANNER. YOU DISPLAYED ADMIRABLE INTELLIGENCE IN GETTING PAST MY LITTLE GREETERS!
AND GREAT STRENGTH, TOO, ALTHOUGH THAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED.
WHAT'S YOUR GAME THIS TIME, LEADER?
WHY HAVE YOU KIDNAPPED MY FRIENDS?
CURIOSITY, DR. BANNER-- AND MERELY THAT.
I LEARNED FROM MY AGENT, JACKDAW, THAT THE BRUTISH BEHEMOTH WHO BESTED ME IN THE PAST NOW POSSESSED INTELLIGENCE.
TO TEST THE TRUTH OF THAT, I REPAIRED A RATHER UNIQUE VISUAL RECORDER I FOUND DRIFTING IN SPACE...
BEREET'S STAR-EYE!
EXACTLY.
I DREW FROM ITS MEMORY BANKS VISUALIZATIONS OF AN ALIEN INVASION FLEET AND HAD IT PROJECT THAT FLEET TO EARTH.
YOU AND THE OTHER SUPER-BEINGS DEFEATED THAT FLEET ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN.*
THAT WAS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE INTELLIGENT HULK IN ACTION.
*HULK #278--AL.
13


THEN YOU KIDNAPPED RICK AND BEREET IN ORDER TO TEST WHETHER I'D FIND SOME WAY TO FOLLOW THEM INTO SPACE?
OF COURSE, AS I SAID, I'D HEARD OF THE CHANGE THAT'S COME OVER YOU, BUT ONE CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING ONE HEARS.
STILL, WHEN THE RUMORS WERE CONFIRMED, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW DELIGHTED I WAS.
WHY?
DON'T YOU SEE YET, DR. BANNER? IN THE PAST IT WAS ALWAYS YOUR --THE HULK'S-- SAVAGE UNPREDICTABILITY THAT DEFEATED MY SCHEMES.
THE HULK WAS A CHILD. ONE CANNOT REASON WITH--NOR CORRUPT--A CHILD.
BUT YOU, DR. BANNER, ARE A MAN WHO CAN BE TEMPTED, SWAYED.
TEMPTED? TO DO WHAT?!
WHY, TO JOIN WITH ME OF COURSE. TO ADD YOUR GAMMA-SPAWNED STRENGTH TO MY GAMMA-INCREASED INTELLECT.
TO RULE THE WORLD BY MY SIDE!
YOU MEGALOMANIACAL LITTLE MUTATE! EITHER EXPOSURE TO GAMMA RAYS HAS DRIVEN YOU CRAZY--
--OR YOU WERE MAD AS A HATTER TO BEGIN WITH!
14


I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT! YOU FIGURE I SHOULD RESENT THE WAY THE EARTH TREATED ME IN THE PAST!
BUT I WAS A MONSTER! I DESERVED TO BE HUNTED AND HOUNDED!
THAT'S NOT TRUE, DOC!
SHUT UP, RICK! UNDERSTAND ME, LEADER--
I WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE ON THE EARTH, NOT RULE IT!
YOU ARE A FOOL, THEN, DR. BANNER--
--AND A FOOL NOT WITH ME IS, IPSO FACTO, AGAINST ME!
AND I AM NOT SUCH A FOOL AS TO ALLOW A POSSIBLE ENEMY TO LIVE.
SLAY THE HULK, MY HUMANOIDS!
15

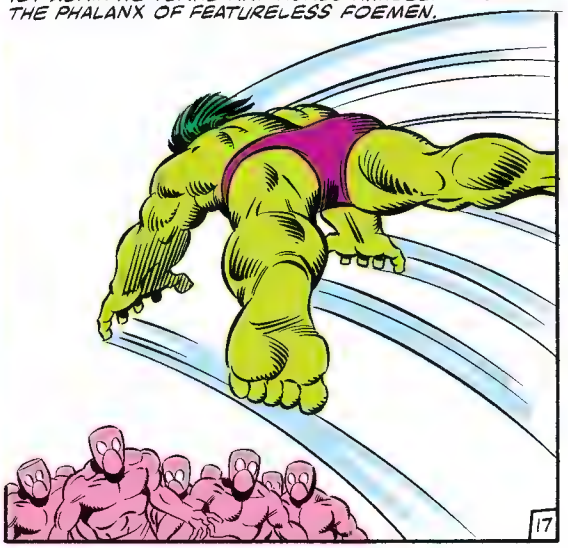
IS THIS ANOTHER TEST, LEADER? I HOPE NOT! I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF YOUR PUTTY PEOPLE!
TIRED ENOUGH TO SMASH BOTH THEM AND YOU TO KINGDOM COME!
WAY TO GO! WHEN THE DOC GETS MAD, IT'S LIKE WATCHING THE OLD HULK IN ACTION! THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN STOP HIM!
BUT THE HUMANOIDS SEEM INNUMERABLE AS THE STARS IN SPACE, RICK--
--AND EVEN NOW THEY SEEK TO SMOTHER THE HULK BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!
GLEEP!
KEEP YOUR HUMANOIDS COMING, LEADER! EXHAUST YOUR SUPPLY!
16

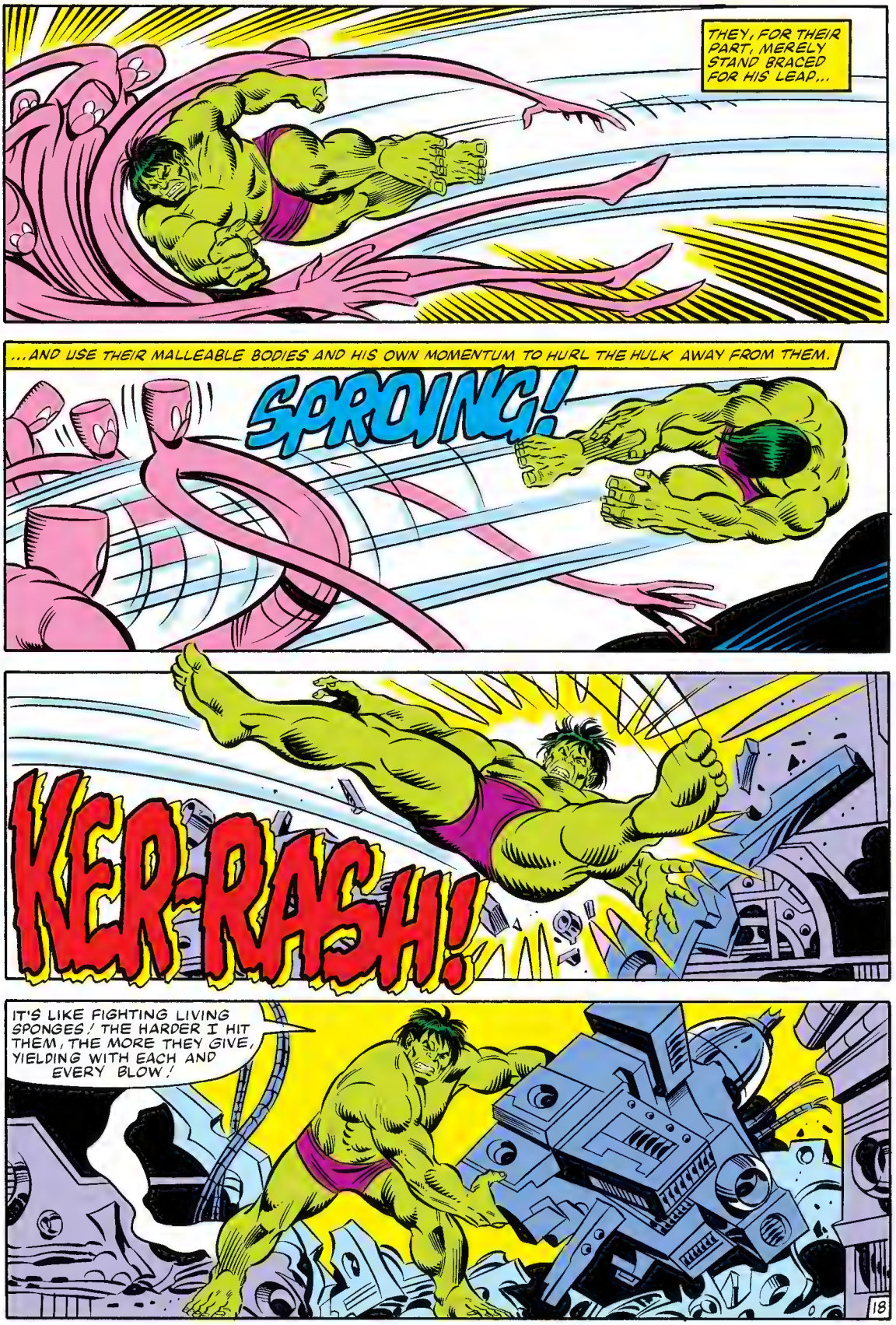
I'VE FOUGHT YOUR UNTHINKING ARMY BEFORE!

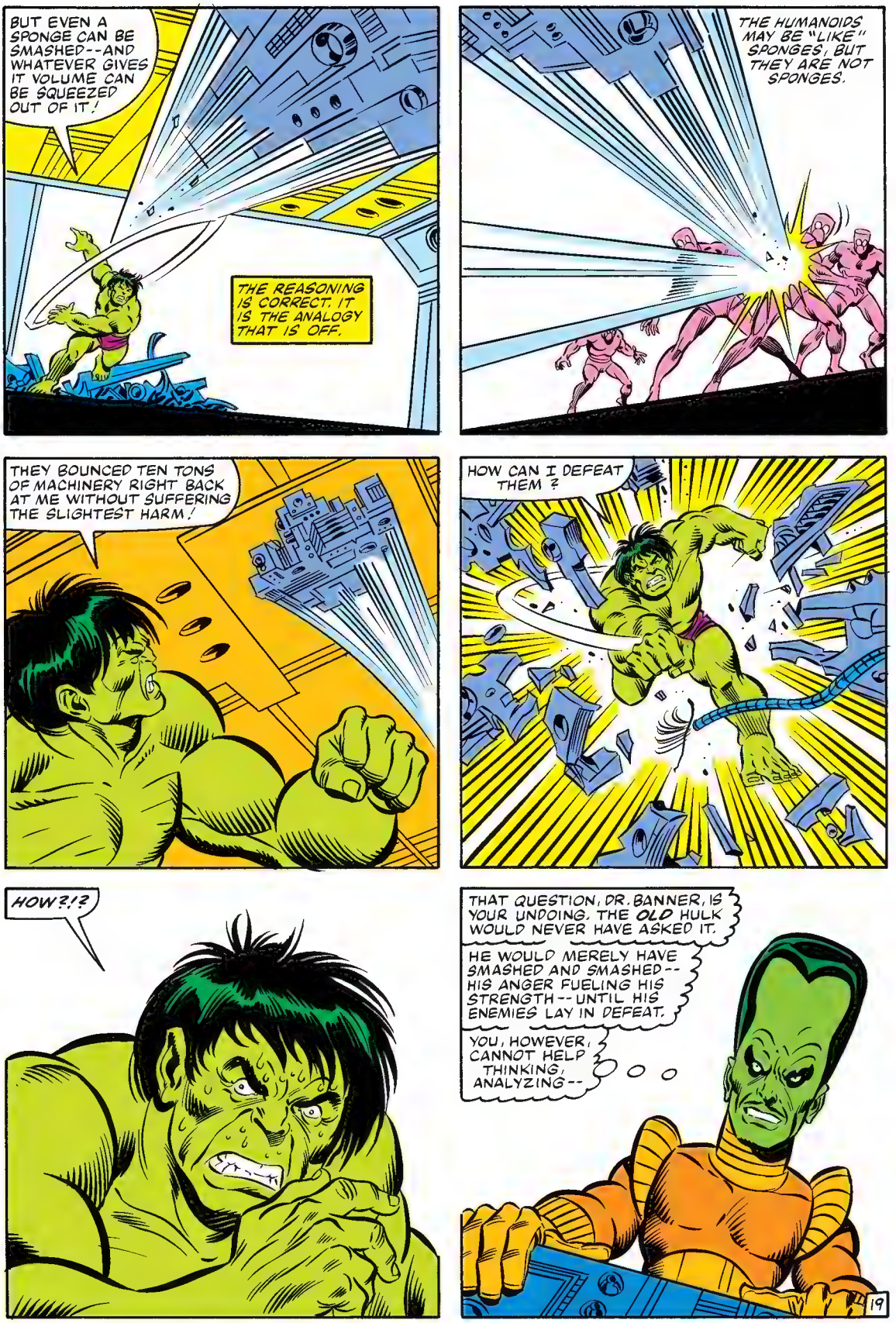

I'VE BEATEN THEM-- AND YOU-- BEFORE!

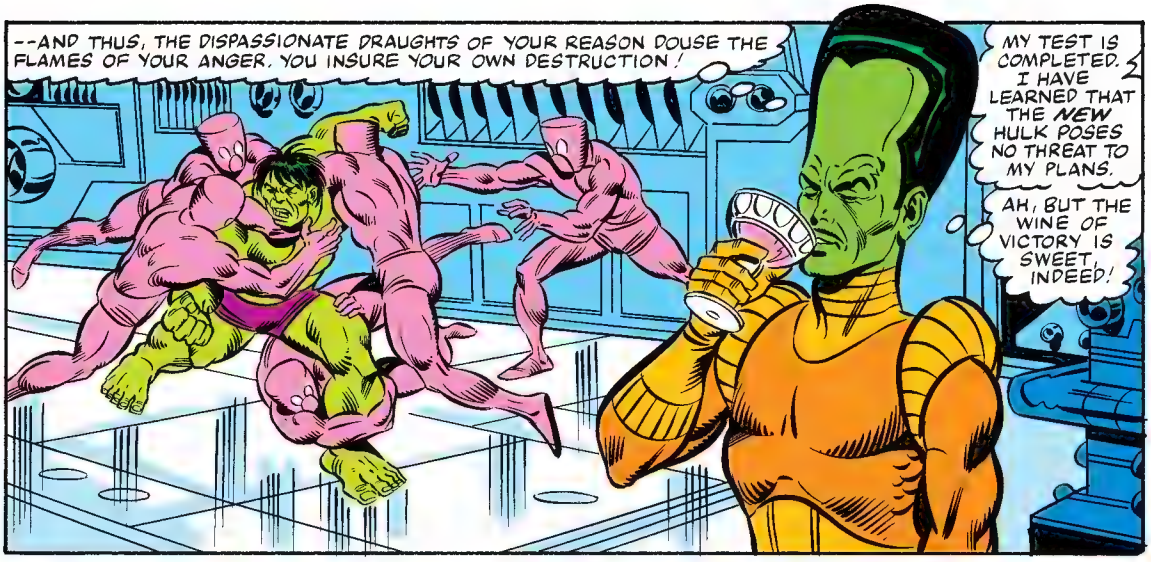
AND, BY HEAVEN, I'LL BEAT YOU BOTH AGAIN.!!!

SWEAT STREAMS OFF OF THE HULK. HIS BREATH COMES IN RAGGED GASPS.


YET AGAIN HE TURNS AND HURLS HIMSELF UPON THE PHALANX OF FEATURELESS FOEMEN.
17


THEY, FOR THEIR PART, MERELY STAND BRACED FOR HIS LEAP...
...AND USE THEIR MALLEABLE BODIES AND HIS OWN MOMENTUM TO HURL THE HULK AWAY FROM THEM.
SPROING!
KER-RASH!
IT'S LIKE FIGHTING LIVING SPONGES! THE HARDER I HIT THEM, THE MORE THEY GIVE, YIELDING WITH EACH AND EVERY BLOW!
18

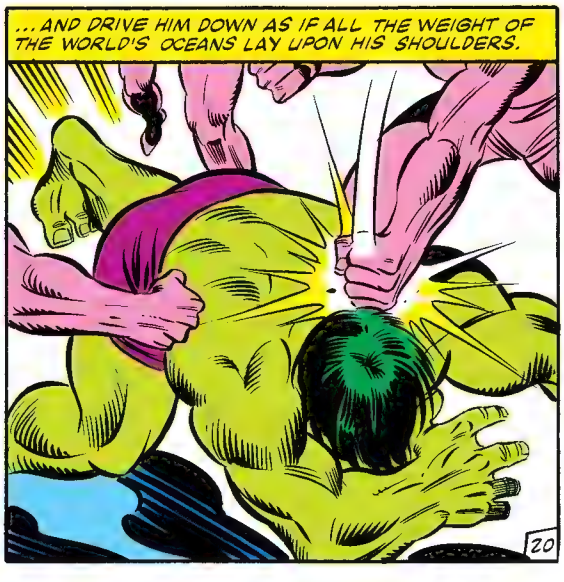

BUT EVEN A SPONGE CAN BE SMASHED--AND WHATEVER GIVES IT VOLUME CAN BE SQUEEZED OUT OF IT!
THE REASONING IS CORRECT. IT IS THE ANALOGY THAT IS OFF.
THE HUMANOIDS MAY BE "LIKE" SPONGES, BUT THEY ARE NOT SPONGES.
THEY BOUNCED TEN TONS OF MACHINERY RIGHT BACK AT ME WITHOUT SUFFERING THE SLIGHTEST HARM!
HOW CAN I DEFEAT THEM?
HOW?!?
THAT QUESTION, DR. BANNER, IS YOUR UNDOING. THE OLD HULK WOULD NEVER HAVE ASKED IT.
HE WOULD MERELY HAVE SMASHED AND SMASHED--HIS ANGER FUELING HIS STRENGTH--UNTIL HIS ENEMIES LAY IN DEFEAT.
YOU, HOWEVER, CANNOT HELP THINKING, ANALYZING--
19

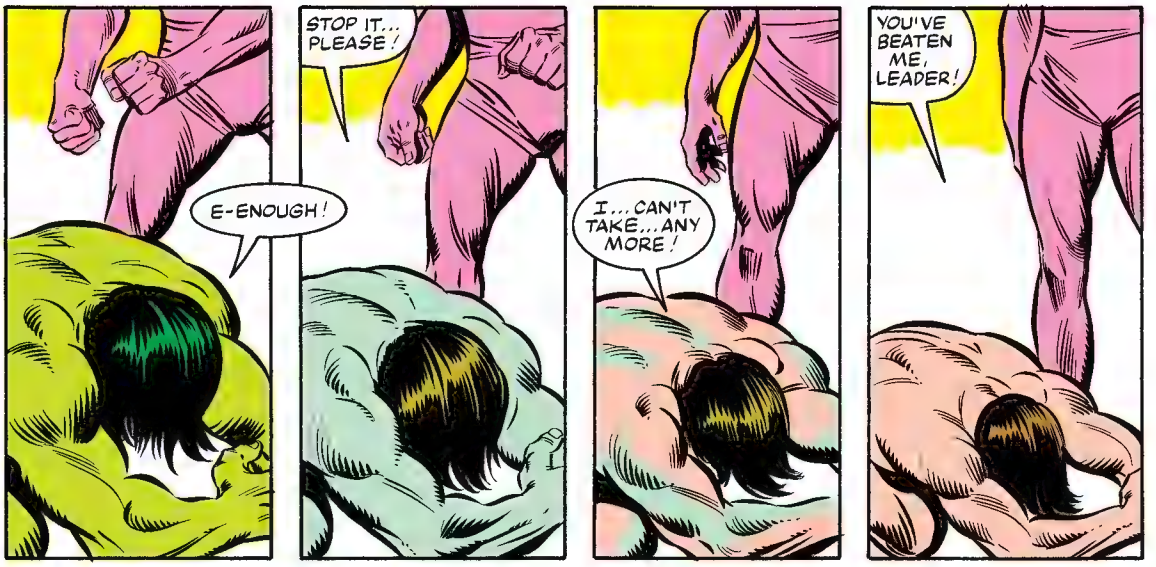

--AND THUS, THE DISPASSIONATE DRAUGHTS OF YOUR REASON DOUSE THE FLAMES OF YOUR ANGER, YOU INSURE YOUR OWN DESTRUCTION!
MY TEST IS COMPLETED. I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE NEW HULK POSES NO THREAT TO MY PLANS.
AH, BUT THE WINE OF VICTORY IS SWEET, INDEED!

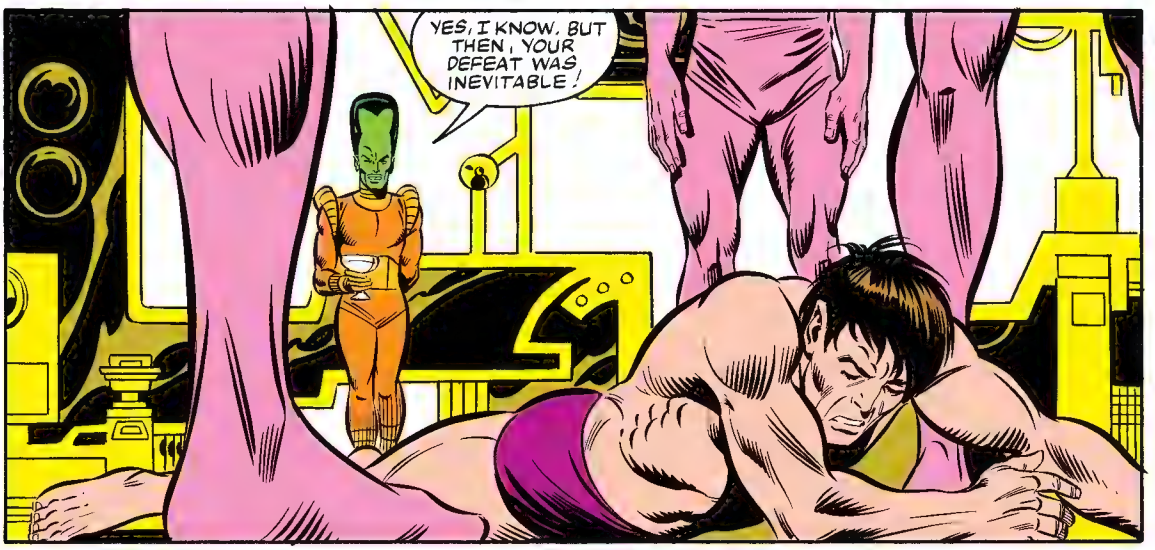
THE HULK'S GETTING CREAMED! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE STAGGERS--GASPS FOR BREATH--APPEARS ON THE VERGE OF EXHAUSTION!
BRUCE BANNER'S EXHAUSTION TIRES THE TIRELESS HULK!

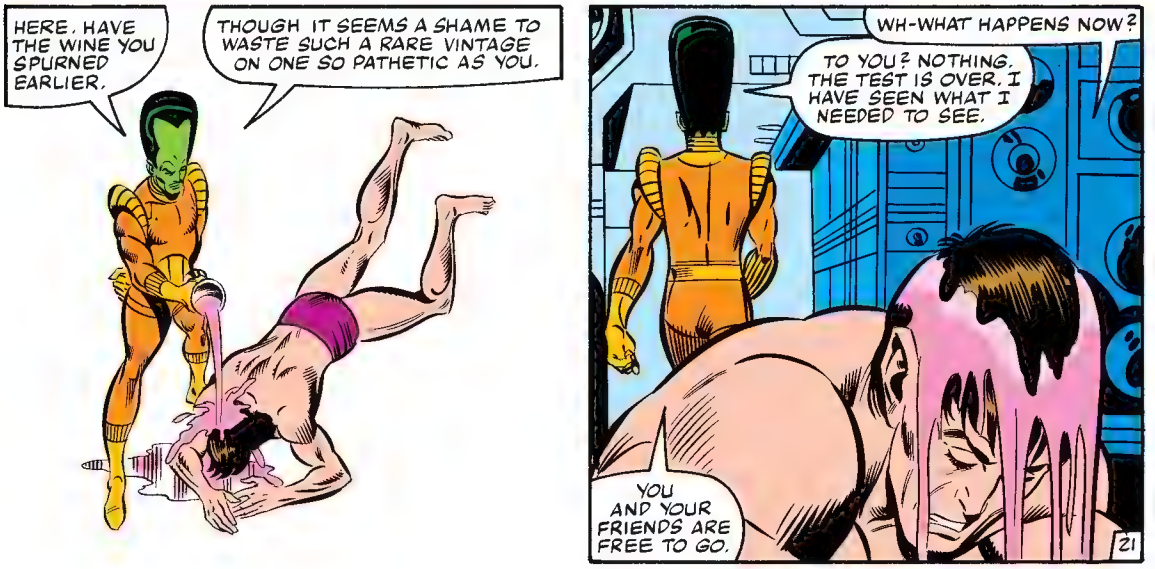
I'LL... STOP YOU ... LEADER! NOTHING... WILL KEEP ME... FROM YOU!

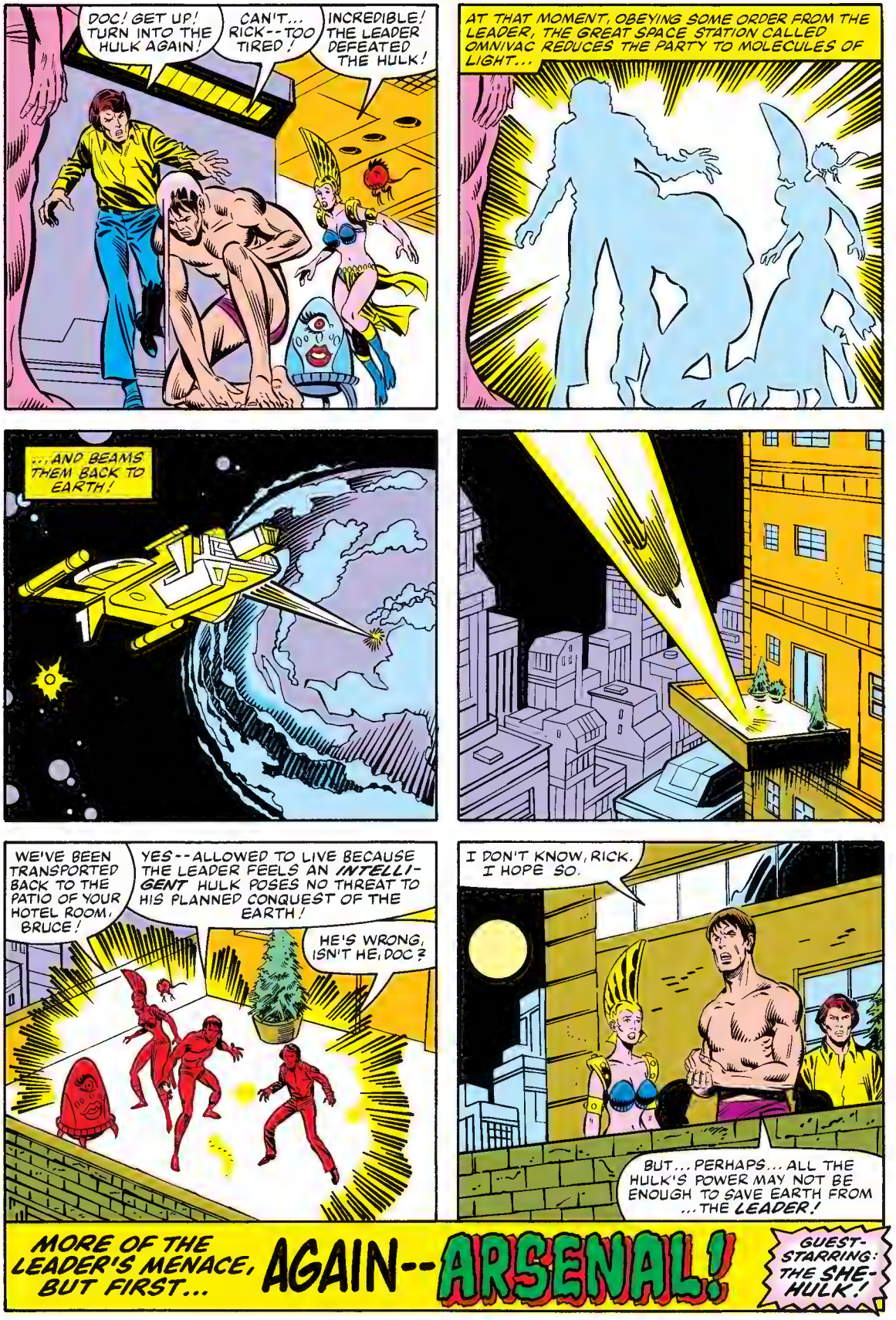
NOTH...!
THEY CRASH UPON HIM LIKE WAVES UPON THE SHORE...


...AND DRIVE HIM DOWN AS IF ALL THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS LAY UPON HIS SHOULDERS.
20


E-ENOUGH!
STOP IT... PLEASE!
I...CAN'T TAKE...ANY MORE!
YOU'VE BEATEN ME, LEADER!


YES, I KNOW. BUT THEN, YOUR DEFEAT WAS INEVITABLE!


HERE. HAVE THE WINE YOU SPURNED EARLIER.
THOUGH IT SEEMS A SHAME TO WASTE SUCH A RARE VINTAGE ON ONE SO PATHETIC AS YOU.
WH-WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
TO YOU? NOTHING. THE TEST IS OVER. I HAVE SEEN WHAT I NEEDED TO SEE.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE FREE TO GO.
21


DOC! GET UP! TURN INTO THE HULK AGAIN!
CAN'T... RICK--TOO TIRED!
INCREDIBLE! THE LEADER DEFEATED THE HULK!
AT THAT MOMENT, OBEYING SOME ORDER FROM THE LEADER, THE GREAT SPACE STATION CALLED OMNIVAC REDUCES THE PARTY TO MOLECULES OF LIGHT...
...AND BEAMS THEM BACK TO EARTH!
WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED BACK TO THE PATIO OF YOUR HOTEL ROOM, BRUCE!
YES--ALLOWED TO LIVE BECAUSE THE LEADER FEELS AN INTELLIGENT HULK POSES NO THREAT TO HIS PLANNED CONQUEST OF THE EARTH!
HE'S WRONG, ISN'T HE, DOC?
I DON'T KNOW, RICK. I HOPE SO.
BUT... PERHAPS... ALL THE HULK'S POWER MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE EARTH FROM ...THE LEADER!
MORE OF THE LEADER'S MENACE, BUT FIRST...
AGAIN--ARSENAL!
GUEST-STARRING: THE SHE-HULK!

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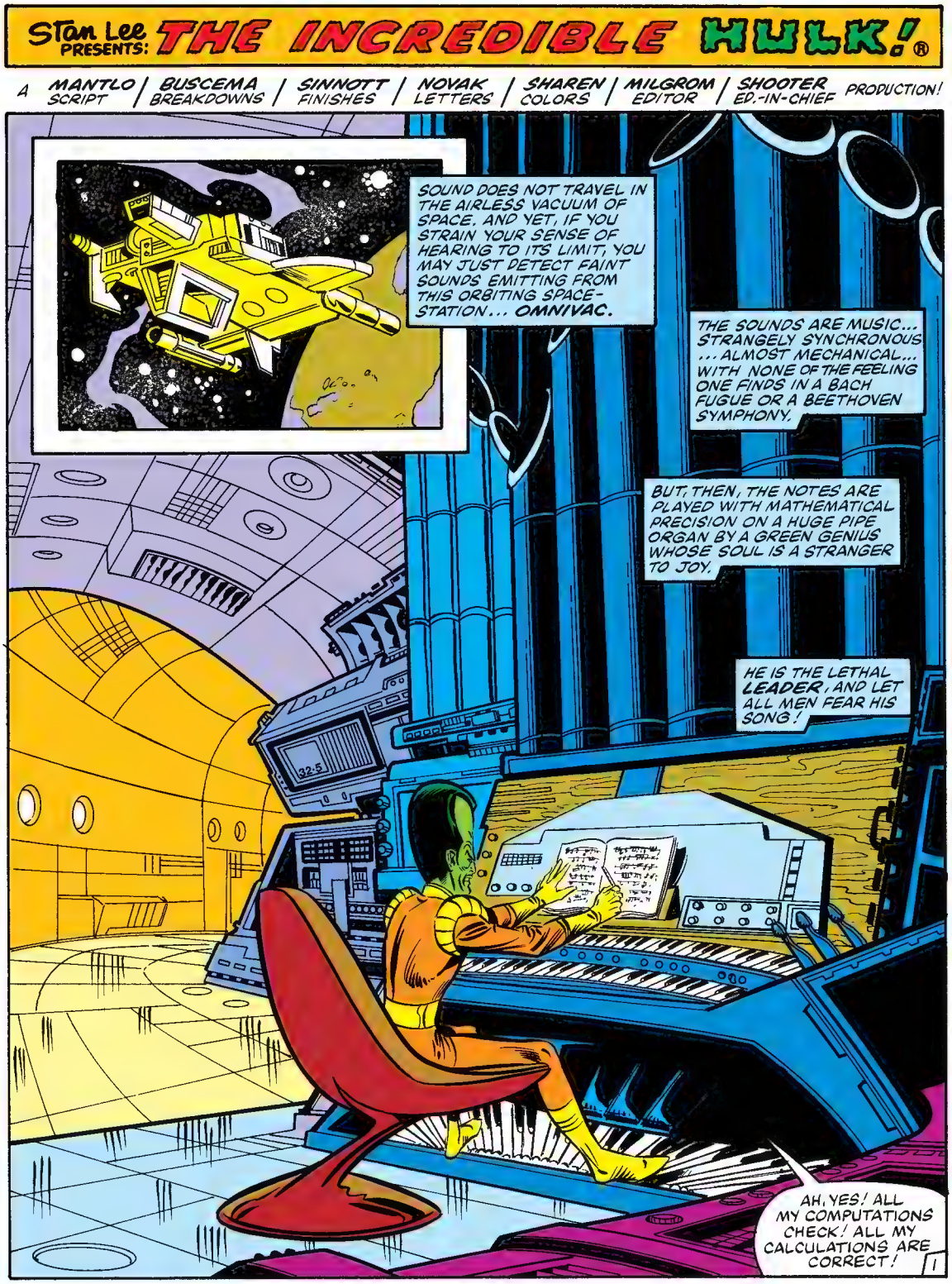
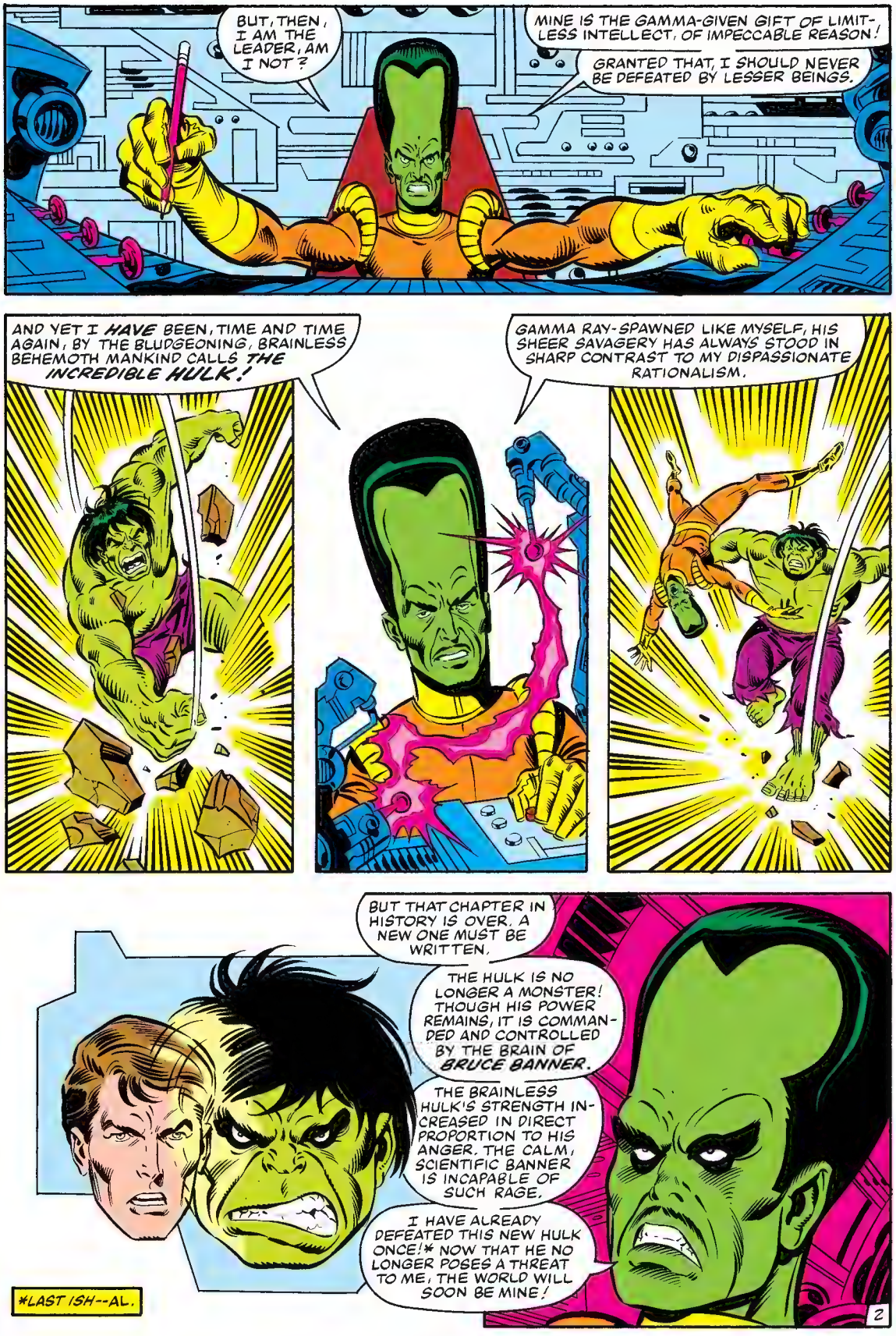
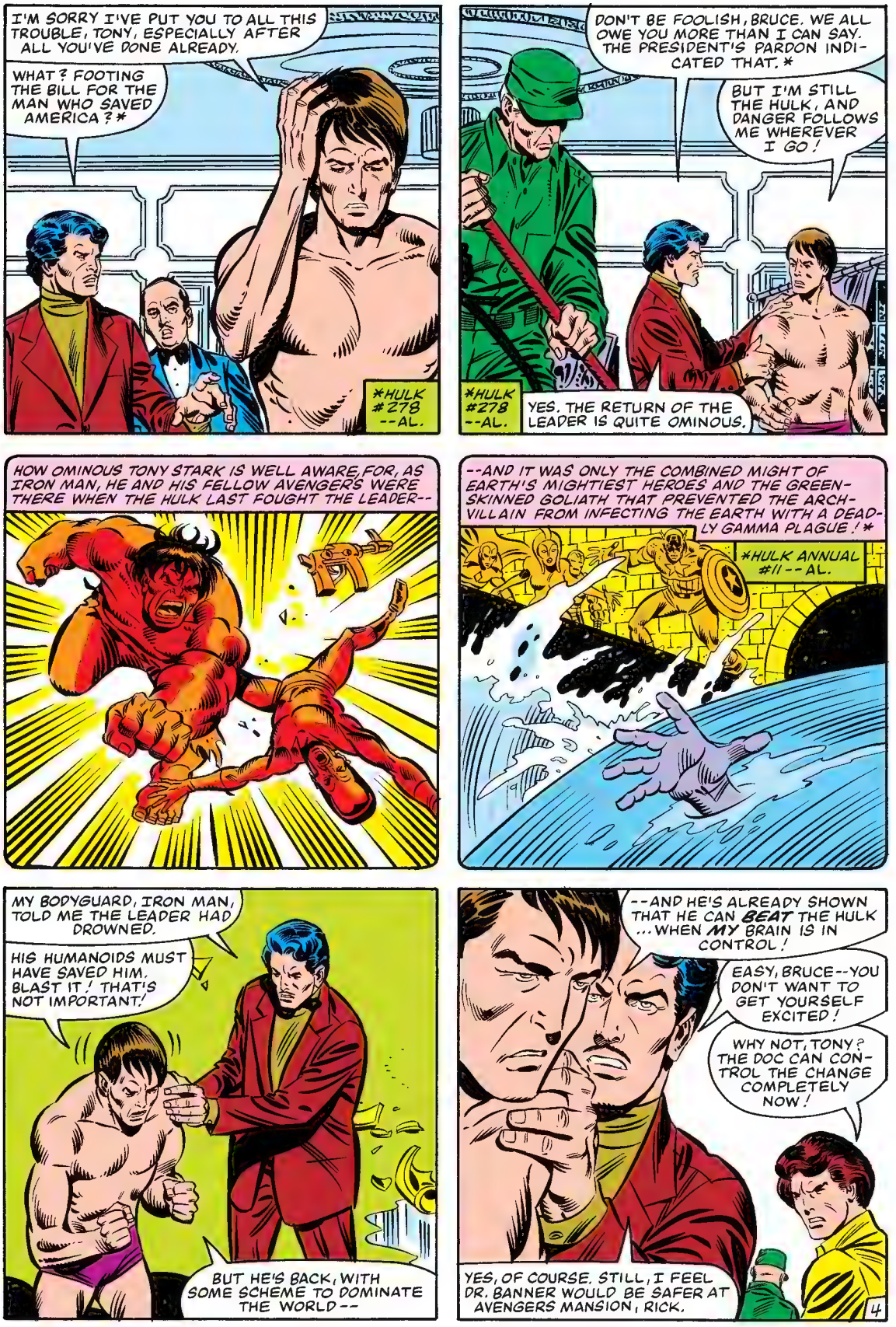

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
A MANTLO SCRIPT / BUSCEMA BREAKDOWNS / SINNOTT FINISHES / NOVAK LETTERS / SHAREN COLORS / MILGROM EDITOR / SHOOTER ED.-IN-CHIEF PRODUCTION!
SOUND DOES NOT TRAVEL IN THE AIRLESS VACUUM OF SPACE. AND YET, IF YOU STRAIN YOUR SENSE OF HEARING TO ITS LIMIT, YOU MAY JUST DETECT FAINT SOUNDS EMITTING FROM THIS ORBITING SPACE-STATION... OMNIVAC.
THE SOUNDS ARE MUSIC... STRANGELY SYNCHRONOUS ... ALMOST MECHANICAL... WITH NONE OF THE FEELING ONE FINDS IN A BACH FUGUE OR A BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY.
BUT, THEN, THE NOTES ARE PLAYED WITH MATHEMATICAL PRECISION ON A HUGE PIPE ORGAN BY A GREEN GENIUS WHOSE SOUL IS A STRANGER TO JOY.
HE IS THE LETHAL LEADER, AND LET ALL MEN FEAR HIS SONG!
AH, YES! ALL MY COMPUTATIONS CHECK! ALL MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT!
1


BUT, THEN, I AM THE LEADER, AM I NOT?
MINE IS THE GAMMA-GIVEN GIFT OF LIMITLESS INTELLECT, OF IMPECCABLE REASON!
GRANTED THAT, I SHOULD NEVER BE DEFEATED BY LESSER BEINGS.
AND YET I HAVE BEEN, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, BY THE BLUDGEONING, BRAINLESS BEHEMOTH MANKIND CALLS THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
GAMMA RAY-SPAWNED LIKE MYSELF, HIS SHEER SAVAGERY HAS ALWAYS STOOD IN SHARP CONTRAST TO MY DISPASSIONATE RATIONALISM.
BUT THAT CHAPTER IN HISTORY IS OVER. A NEW ONE MUST BE WRITTEN.
THE HULK IS NO LONGER A MONSTER! THOUGH HIS POWER REMAINS, IT IS COMMANDED AND CONTROLLED BY THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER.
THE BRAINLESS HULK'S STRENGTH INCREASED IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HIS ANGER. THE CALM, SCIENTIFIC BANNER IS INCAPABLE OF SUCH RAGE.
I HAVE ALREADY DEFEATED THIS NEW HULK ONCE!* NOW THAT HE NO LONGER POSES A THREAT TO ME, THE WORLD WILL SOON BE MINE!
*LAST ISH--AL.
2

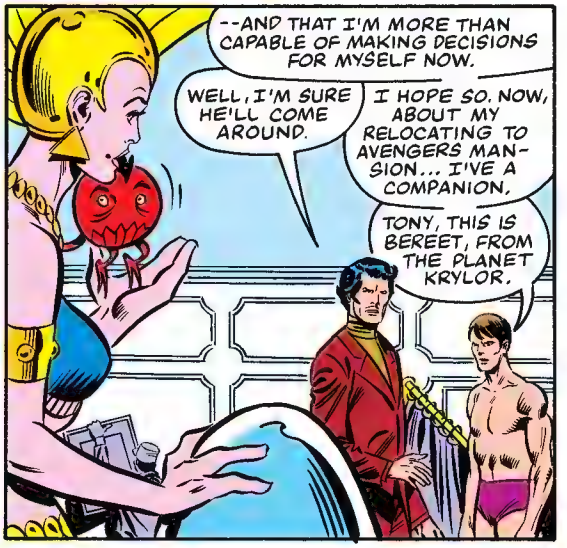
MEANWHILE, LET'S LOOK IN ON BRUCE BANNER & COMPANY IN THE NOW NOT-SO-STATELY HOTEL SUITE THAT HAD SERVED AS THEIR HOME BEFORE THE COMING OF THE LEADER!
OOPS! DID WE FORGET TO TELL YOU OUR TITLE? IT'S...
AGAIN, ARSENAL!
MR. STARK, I KNOW YOU OWN A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN EMPIRE HOTEL--
--BUT BRUCE BANNER CAN NO LONGER STAY HERE... NOT SO LONG AS HE IS THE HULK! THE OTHER GUESTS--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MATTHEW. I UNDERSTAND... AND I APPRECIATE YOUR HAVING FIELDED ALL THE COMPLAINTS THUS FAR.
BUT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. DR. BANNER WILL BE RELOCATED THIS AFTERNOON.
SHEESH! THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!
SOME PARTY YOU FOLKS HAD HERE!
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE TONY STARK'S CURRENT TRAVAILS IN THE PAGES OF IRON MAN -- AND HIS METAL-CLAD ALTER-EGO'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE AVENGERS. -- EDITORI-AL.
3


I'M SORRY I'VE PUT YOU TO ALL THIS TROUBLE, TONY, ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE ALREADY.
WHAT? FOOTING THE BILL FOR THE MAN WHO SAVED AMERICA?*
*HULK #278 --AL.
DON'T BE FOOLISH, BRUCE. WE ALL OWE YOU MORE THAN I CAN SAY. THE PRESIDENT'S PARDON INDICATED THAT.*
BUT I'M STILL THE HULK, AND DANGER FOLLOWS ME WHEREVER I GO!
*HULK #278 --AL.
YES. THE RETURN OF THE LEADER IS QUITE OMINOUS.
HOW OMINOUS TONY STARK IS WELL AWARE, FOR, AS IRON MAN, HE AND HIS FELLOW AVENGERS WERE THERE WHEN THE HULK LAST FOUGHT THE LEADER--
--AND IT WAS ONLY THE COMBINED MIGHT OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AND THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH THAT PREVENTED THE ARCH-VILLAIN FROM INFECTING THE EARTH WITH A DEADLY GAMMA PLAGUE!*
*HULK ANNUAL #11 -- AL.
MY BODYGUARD, IRON MAN, TOLD ME THE LEADER HAD DROWNED.
HIS HUMANOIDS MUST HAVE SAVED HIM. BLAST IT! THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!
BUT HE'S BACK, WITH SOME SCHEME TO DOMINATE THE WORLD--
--AND HE'S ALREADY SHOWN THAT HE CAN BEAT THE HULK ...WHEN MY BRAIN IS IN CONTROL!
EASY, BRUCE--YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOURSELF EXCITED!
WHY NOT, TONY? THE DOC CAN CONTROL THE CHANGE COMPLETELY NOW!
YES, OF COURSE. STILL, I FEEL DR. BANNER WOULD BE SAFER AT AVENGERS MANSION, RICK.
4

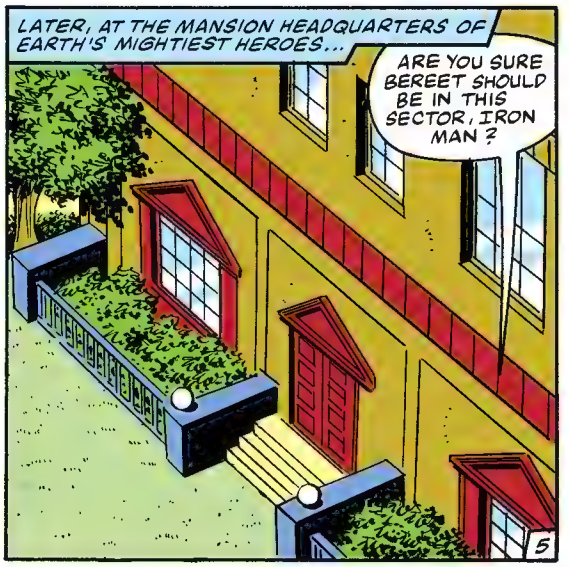
IS IT THE DOC'S SAFETY YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, STARK--OR THE SAFETY OF ALL THESE "PAYING GUESTS" HE FOUGHT TO SAVE?!
INSTEAD OF A VOTE OF THANKS, ALL HE GETS IS AN EVICTION NOTICE!

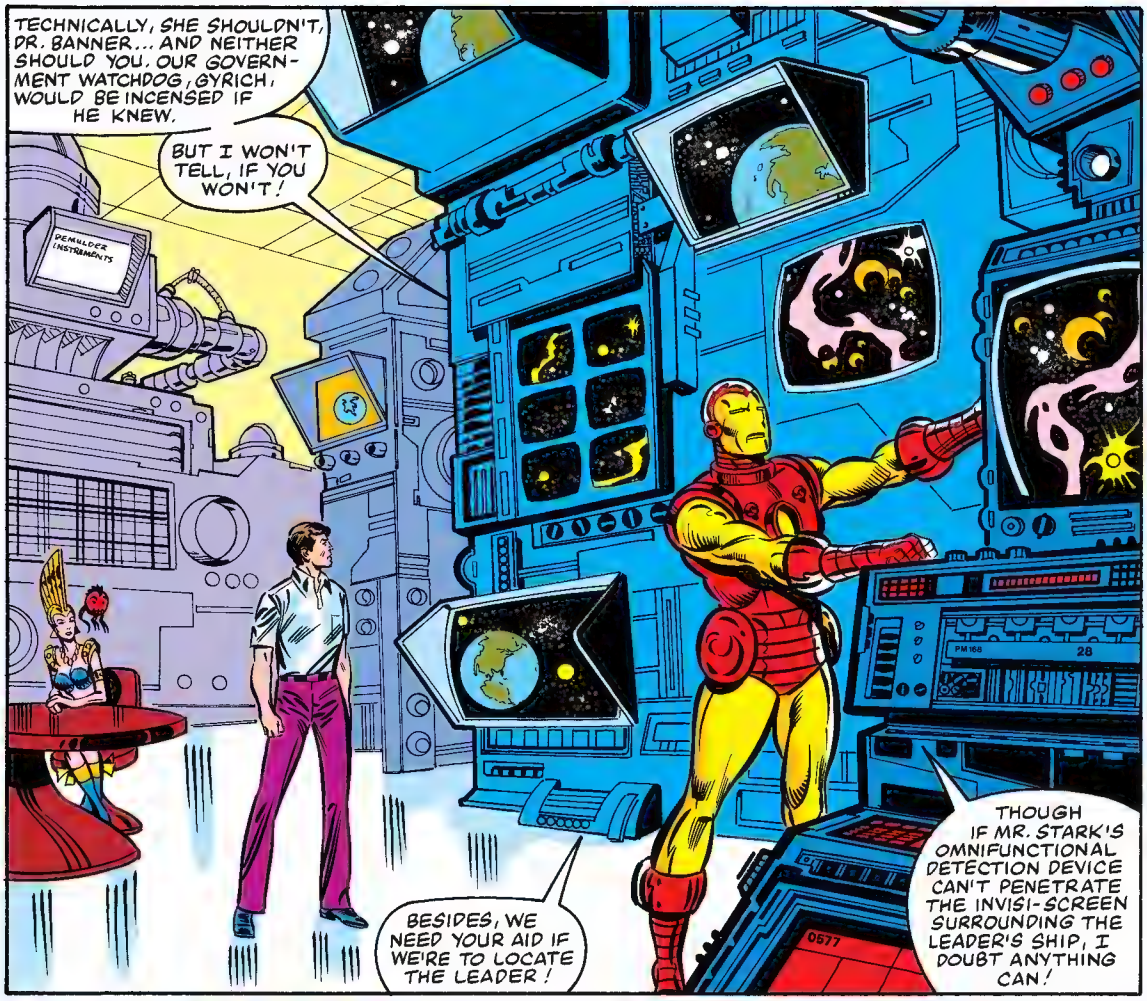
RICK, PLEASE--TONY'S RIGHT!
AS LONG AS I'M THE HULK, I CAN EXPECT OLD ENEMIES TO ATTACK ME.
THUS PLACING OTHERS NEARBY IN DANGER!
SO IT'S THE OLD "HULK MENACE" ROUTINE AGAIN!

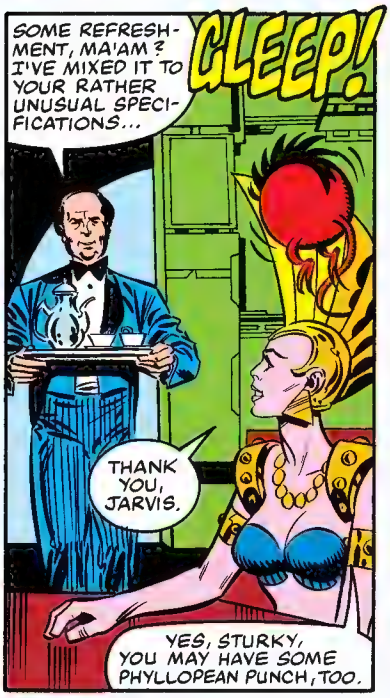
BOY, SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE! 'SCUSE ME! THE AIR'S GETTIN' A BIT HEAVY IN HERE!
THAT BOY'S ALWAYS BEEN INTENSELY LOYAL TO THE HULK!
IT'S TIME HE REALIZED THAT THE HULK HE KNEW IS DEAD--


--AND THAT I'M MORE THAN CAPABLE OF MAKING DECISIONS FOR MYSELF NOW.
WELL, I'M SURE HE'LL COME AROUND.
I HOPE SO. NOW, ABOUT MY RELOCATING TO AVENGERS MANSION... I'VE A COMPANION.
TONY, THIS IS BEREET, FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR.

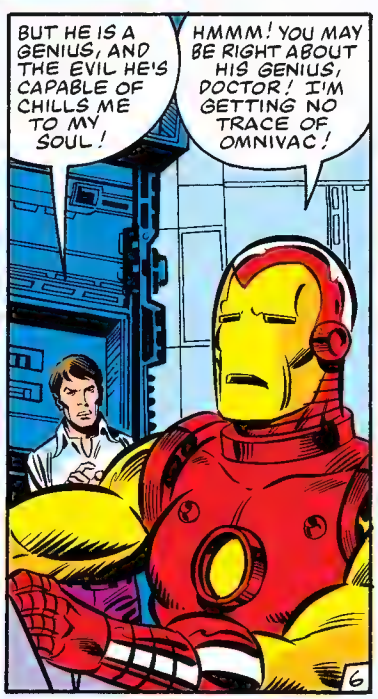
I'VE BEEN BRIEFED ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, BRUCE. I'LL TRY TO CLEAR IT SO THAT SHE CAN ACCOMPANY YOU.
BUT AVENGERS MANSION IS A MAXIMUM SECURITY AREA.
BEREET'S PRESENCE WILL HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO CERTAIN AREAS OR ELSE THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE US TROUBLE.

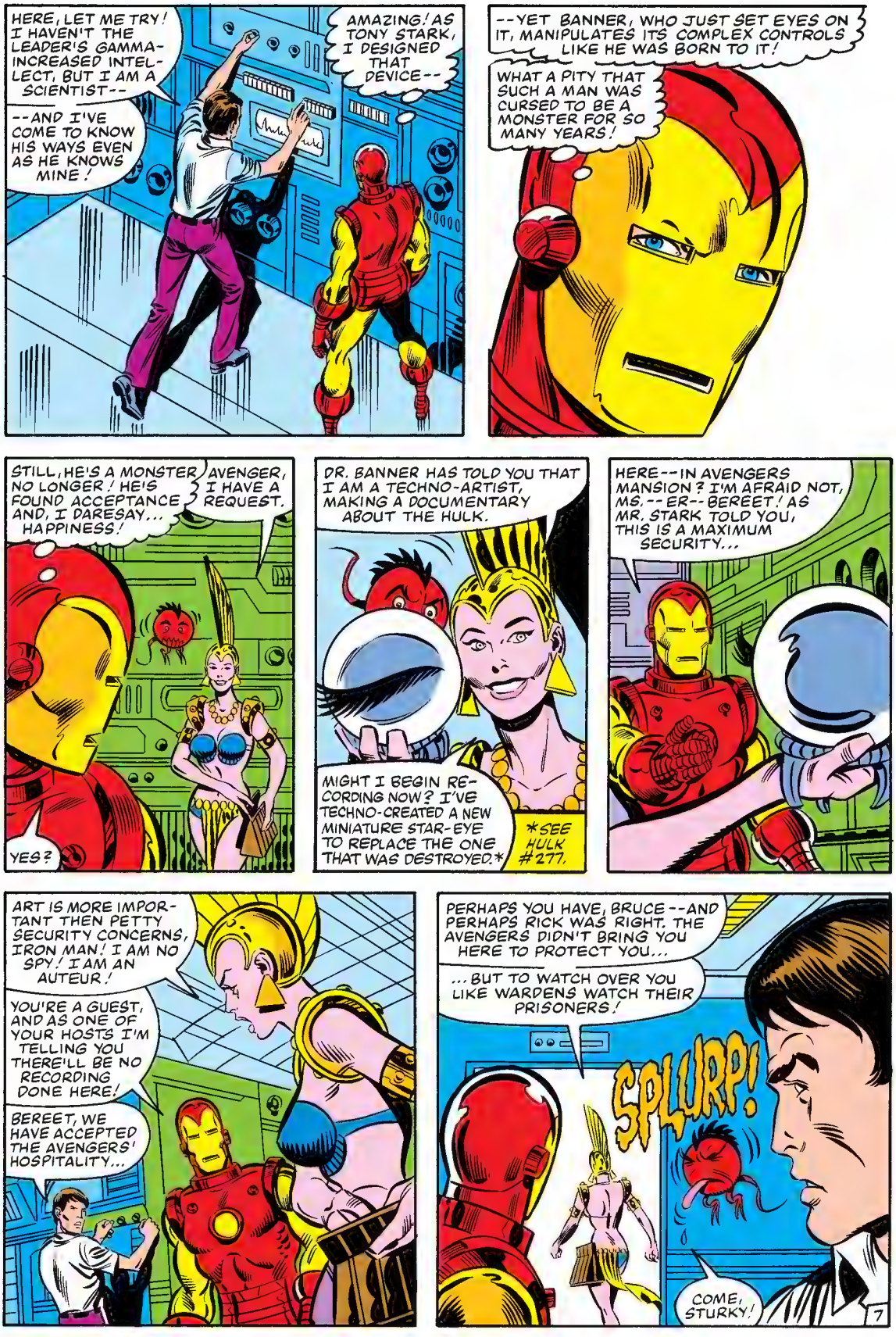

LATER, AT THE MANSION HEADQUARTERS OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...
ARE YOU SURE BEREET SHOULD BE IN THIS SECTOR, IRON MAN?
5

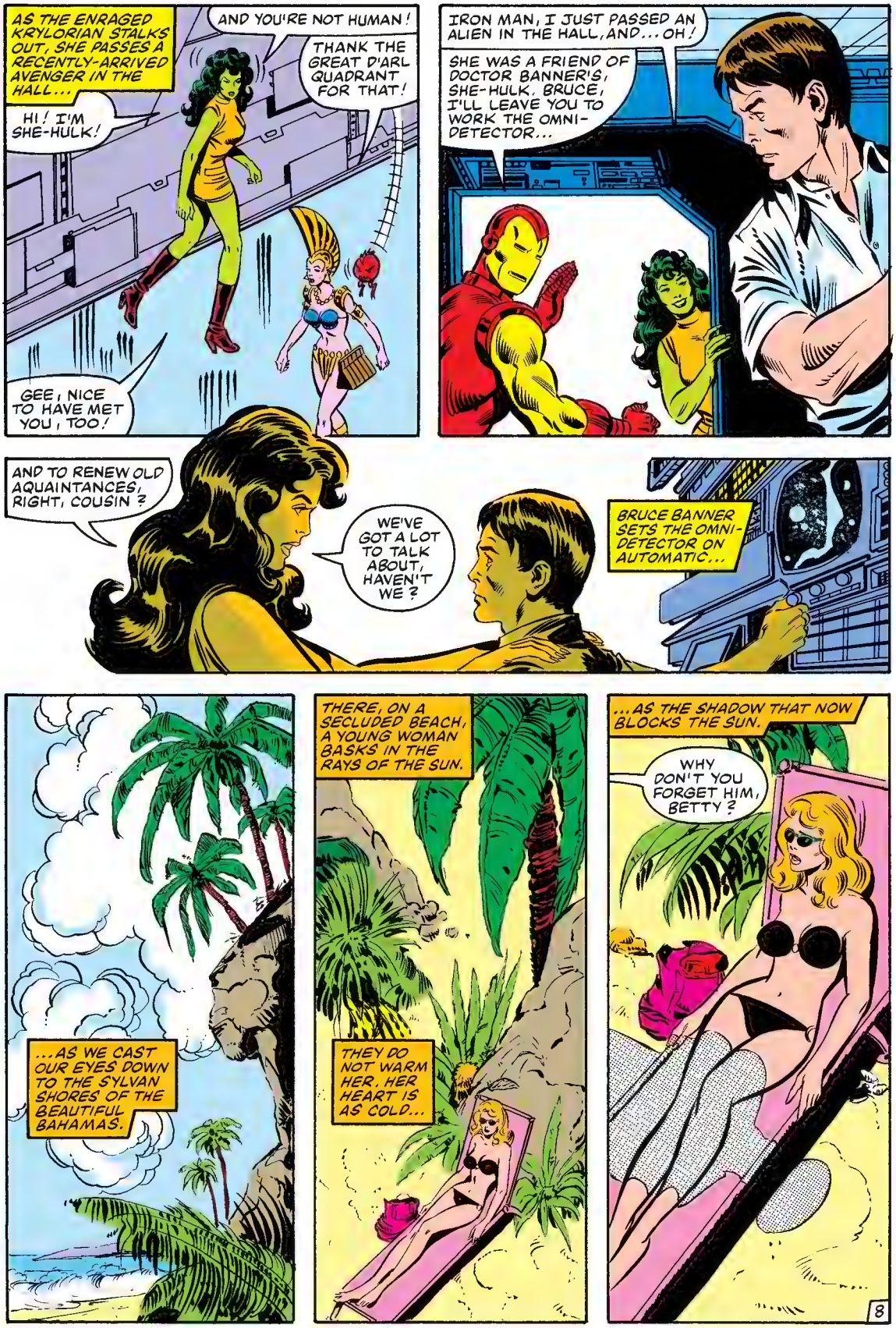

TECHNICALLY, SHE SHOULDN'T, DR. BANNER... AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU. OUR GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG, GYRICH, WOULD BE INCENSED IF HE KNEW.
BUT I WON'T TELL, IF YOU WON'T!
PEMULDER INSTRUMENTS
BESIDES, WE NEED YOUR AID IF WE'RE TO LOCATE THE LEADER!
THOUGH IF MR. STARK'S OMNIFUNCTIONAL DETECTION DEVICE CAN'T PENETRATE THE INVISI-SCREEN SURROUNDING THE LEADER'S SHIP, I DOUBT ANYTHING CAN!

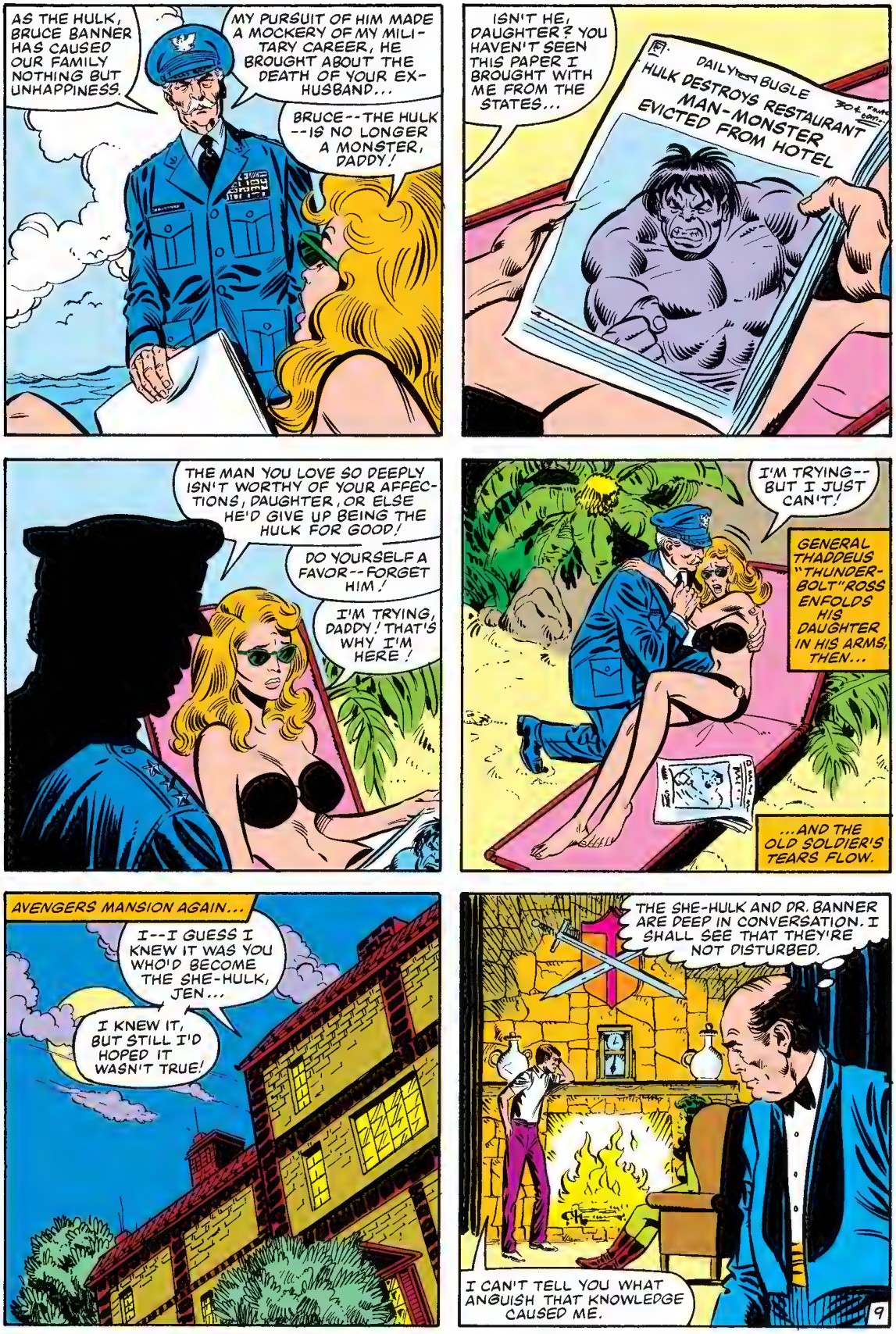

SOME REFRESHMENT, MA'AM? I'VE MIXED IT TO YOUR RATHER UNUSUAL SPECIFICATIONS...
GLEEP!
THANK YOU, JARVIS.
YES, STURKY, YOU MAY HAVE SOME PHYLLOPEAN PUNCH, TOO.

THE WHOLE WORLD UNDERESTIMATES THE LEADER, IRON MAN. HE'S WARPED, TWISTED, MEGALOMANIACAL...


BUT HE IS A GENIUS, AND THE EVIL HE'S CAPABLE OF CHILLS ME TO MY SOUL!
HMMM! YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT HIS GENIUS, DOCTOR! I'M GETTING NO TRACE OF OMNIVAC!
6


HERE, LET ME TRY! I HAVEN'T THE LEADER'S GAMMA-INCREASED INTELLECT, BUT I AM A SCIENTIST--
--AND I'VE COME TO KNOW HIS WAYS EVEN AS HE KNOWS MINE!
AMAZING! AS TONY STARK, I DESIGNED THAT DEVICE--
--YET BANNER, WHO JUST SET EYES ON IT, MANIPULATES ITS COMPLEX CONTROLS LIKE HE WAS BORN TO IT!
WHAT A PITY THAT SUCH A MAN WAS CURSED TO BE A MONSTER FOR SO MANY YEARS!
STILL, HE'S A MONSTER NO LONGER! HE'S FOUND ACCEPTANCE AND, I DARESAY... HAPPINESS!
AVENGER, I HAVE A REQUEST.
YES?
DR. BANNER HAS TOLD YOU THAT I AM A TECHNO-ARTIST, MAKING A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE HULK.
MIGHT I BEGIN RECORDING NOW? I'VE TECHNO-CREATED A NEW MINIATURE STAR-EYE TO REPLACE THE ONE THAT WAS DESTROYED.*
*SEE HULK #277.
HERE--IN AVENGERS MANSION? I'M AFRAID NOT, MS.--ER--BEREET! AS MR. STARK TOLD YOU, THIS IS A MAXIMUM SECURITY...
ART IS MORE IMPORTANT THEN PETTY SECURITY CONCERNS, IRON MAN! I AM NO SPY! I AM AN AUTEUR!
YOU'RE A GUEST, AND AS ONE OF YOUR HOSTS I'M TELLING YOU THERE'LL BE NO RECORDING DONE HERE!
BEREET, WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE AVENGERS' HOSPITALITY...
PERHAPS YOU HAVE, BRUCE--AND PERHAPS RICK WAS RIGHT. THE AVENGERS DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO PROTECT YOU...
...BUT TO WATCH OVER YOU LIKE WARDENS WATCH THEIR PRISONERS!
SPLURP!
COME, STURKY!
7


AS THE ENRAGED KRYLORIAN STALKS OUT, SHE PASSES A RECENTLY-ARRIVED AVENGER IN THE HALL...
AND YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!
THANK THE GREAT D'ARL QUADRANT FOR THAT!
HI! I'M SHE-HULK!
GEE, NICE TO HAVE MET YOU, TOO!
IRON MAN, I JUST PASSED AN ALIEN IN THE HALL, AND... OH!
SHE WAS A FRIEND OF DOCTOR BANNER'S, SHE-HULK. BRUCE, I'LL LEAVE YOU TO WORK THE OMNI-DETECTOR...
AND TO RENEW OLD AQUAINTANCES, RIGHT, COUSIN?
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, HAVEN'T WE?
BRUCE BANNER SETS THE OMNI-DETECTOR ON AUTOMATIC...
...AS WE CAST OUR EYES DOWN TO THE SYLVAN SHORES OF THE BEAUTIFUL BAHAMAS.
THERE, ON A SECLUDED BEACH, A YOUNG WOMAN BASKS IN THE RAYS OF THE SUN.
THEY DO NOT WARM HER. HER HEART IS AS COLD...
...AS THE SHADOW THAT NOW BLOCKS THE SUN.
WHY DON'T YOU FORGET HIM, BETTY?
8


AS THE HULK, BRUCE BANNER HAS CAUSED OUR FAMILY NOTHING BUT UNHAPPINESS.
MY PURSUIT OF HIM MADE A MOCKERY OF MY MILITARY CAREER, HE BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR EX-HUSBAND...
BRUCE--THE HULK--IS NO LONGER A MONSTER, DADDY!
ISN'T HE, DAUGHTER? YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THIS PAPER I BROUGHT WITH ME FROM THE STATES...
DAILY Mega BUGLE
HULK DESTROYS RESTAURANT
MAN-MONSTER EVICTED FROM HOTEL
THE MAN YOU LOVE SO DEEPLY ISN'T WORTHY OF YOUR AFFECTIONS, DAUGHTER, OR ELSE HE'D GIVE UP BEING THE HULK FOR GOOD!
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR--FORGET HIM!
I'M TRYING, DADDY! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!
I'M TRYING--BUT I JUST CAN'T!
GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS ENFOLDS HIS DAUGHTER IN HIS ARMS, THEN...
...AND THE OLD SOLDIER'S TEARS FLOW.
AVENGERS MANSION AGAIN...
I--I GUESS I KNEW IT WAS YOU WHO'D BECOME THE SHE-HULK, JEN...
I KNEW IT, BUT STILL I'D HOPED IT WASN'T TRUE!
THE SHE-HULK AND DR. BANNER ARE DEEP IN CONVERSATION. I SHALL SEE THAT THEY'RE NOT DISTURBED.
I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT ANGUISH THAT KNOWLEDGE CAUSED ME.
9

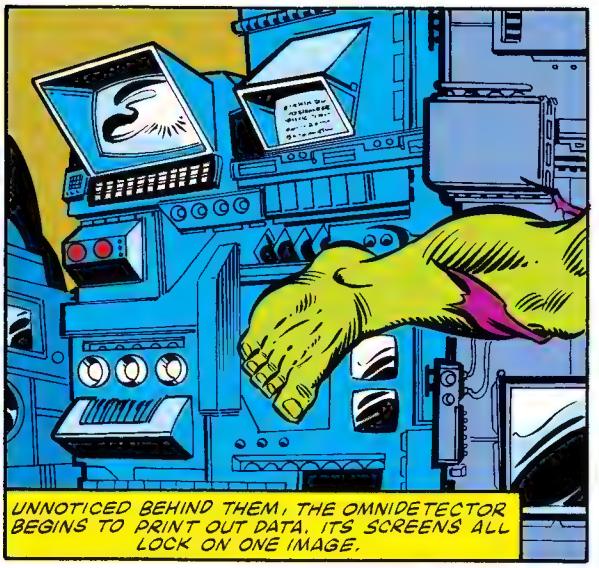
YOU SEE, I MADE MYSELF THE HULK.
OH, TRUE, IT WAS THE TREACHERY OF A SOVIET SPY WHICH ALLOWED THE BOMB'S EXPLOSION--
--AND THE PRESENCE OF YOUNG RICK JONES AT GROUND ZERO THAT LED ME TO ABANDON A POSITION OF SAFETY:-
THOSE WERE THE DIRECT CAUSES OF THE INCREDIBLE, HORRIBLE CHANGE THAT OVERCAME ME AS A RESULT OF GAMMA RAYS PENETRATING EVERY PORE OF MY BODY!
BUT IT WAS I WHO CREATED THE GAMMA BOMB-- I WHO TOYED WITH FORCES TOO DANGEROUS FOR ANY MAN!
I CHOSE THE PATH THAT LED TO MY BECOMING A MONSTER...
... BUT, HEAVEN FORGIVE ME, I MADE YOU A MONSTER, TOO!
I DON'T KNOW HOW HEAVEN FEELS ABOUT IT, COUSIN--
--BUT I FORGAVE YOU A LONG TIME AGO! HEY, I LIKE WHAT I'VE BECOME!
I LIKE BEING THE SHE-HULK!
WHAT WAS I BEFORE, BUT A VICTIM?
"YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANY-ONE HOW JEN WALTERS, LADY LAWYER WAS GUNNED DOWN AND LAY CLOSE TO DEATH!
"IT WAS A TRANSFUSION OF YOUR GAMMA-IRRADIATED BLOOD THAT SAVED MY LIFE THEN...
"...AND AGAIN, LATER AT THE HOSPITAL, WHEN THE SAME HIT MEN MADE A SECOND TRY!
YOU'RE NOT DOCTORS!
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH FAST!
10

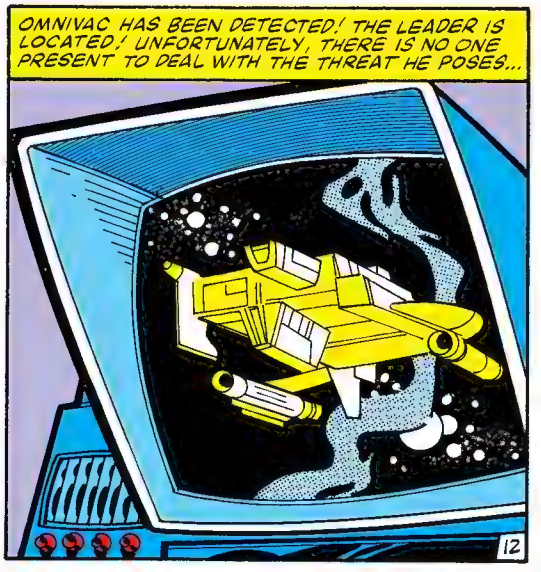
"I WAS ANGRY, SCARED... AND BLOOD RACED IN MY VEINS... YOUR BLOOD, BRUCE!
"AND THE SHE-HULK WAS BORN!"
I'M A VICTIM NO LONGER! I FIGHT BACK! AS THE SHE-HULK, I'M AN AGGRESSIVE, POSITIVE FORCE FOR GOOD!
SO YOU DON'T BLAME ME FOR WHAT I DID TO YOU?
BLAME YOU? I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT I'M SO GRATEFUL I COULD KISS YOU! I LIKE BEING GREEN, FIGHTING SUPER-VILLAINS, BEING AN AVENGER!
COUSIN, WE'RE NOT MONSTERS! WE'VE GOT A GREAT GIFT -- THE POWER AND THE ABILITY TO DO GOOD!
I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT, ONCE YOU WERE ABLE TO CONTROL THE CHANGE!
I'VE TRIED, BUT IT'S HARD!
OF COURSE, IT IS, AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH!
BUT YOU'VE FRIENDS WHO'LL STAND BESIDE YOU NOW, NO MATTER...
11

...WHAT?!?
NOOOO
A CRY OF PAIN--OF SHOCK! JARVIS!

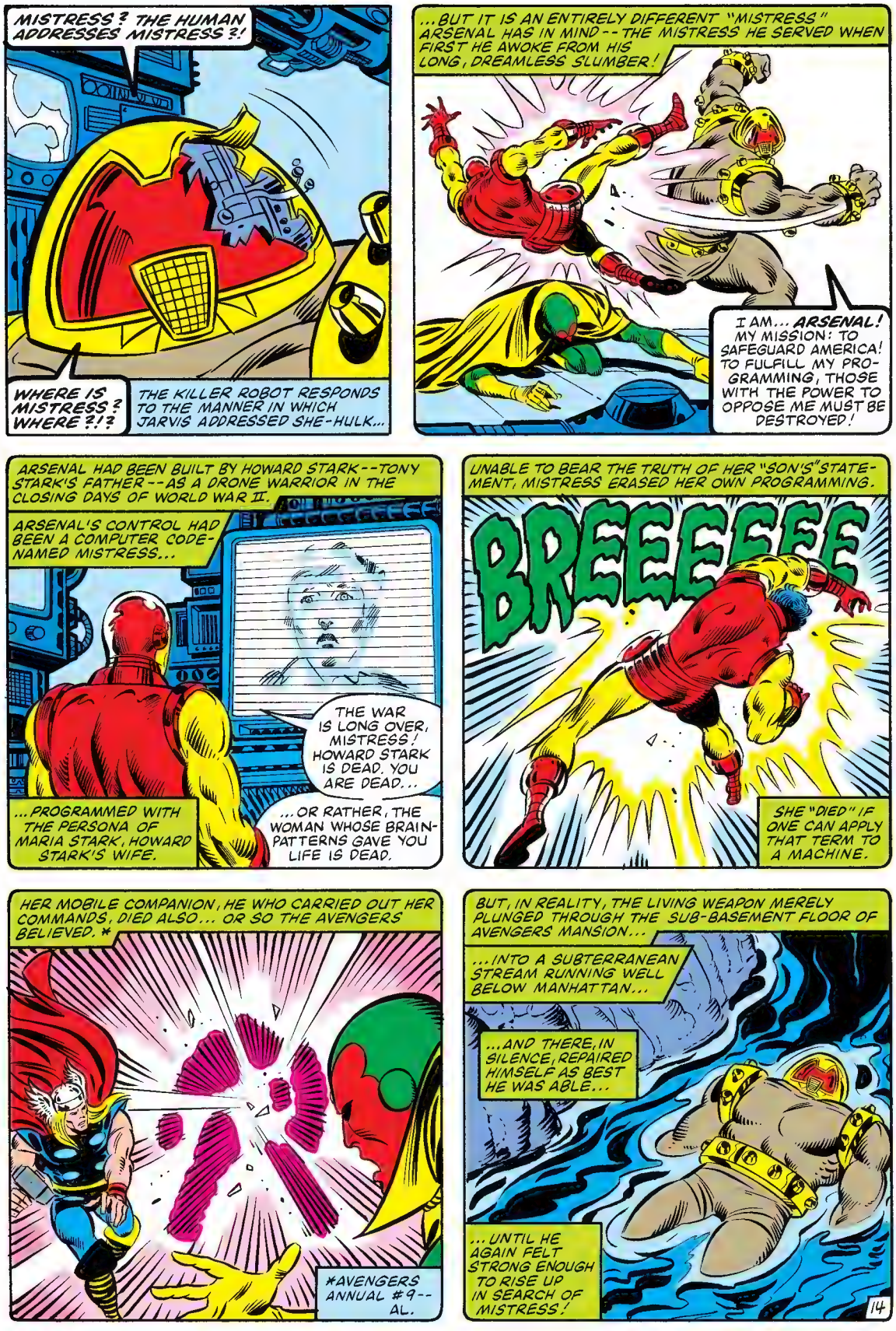
THIS WAY! FOLLOW ME, COUSIN!
I'LL FOLLOW, JEN, BUT NOT AS BRUCE BANNER!

WHOEVER'S HURT JARVIS WILL HAVE TO ANSWER TO THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
A CHANGE BRUCE BANNER FOUGHT FOR YEARS HE NOW WELCOMES WILLINGLY.
AHEAD OF HIM, THE SHE-HULK SMILES!


UNNOTICED BEHIND THEM, THE OMNIDETECTOR BEGINS TO PRINT OUT DATA. ITS SCREENS ALL LOCK ON ONE IMAGE.

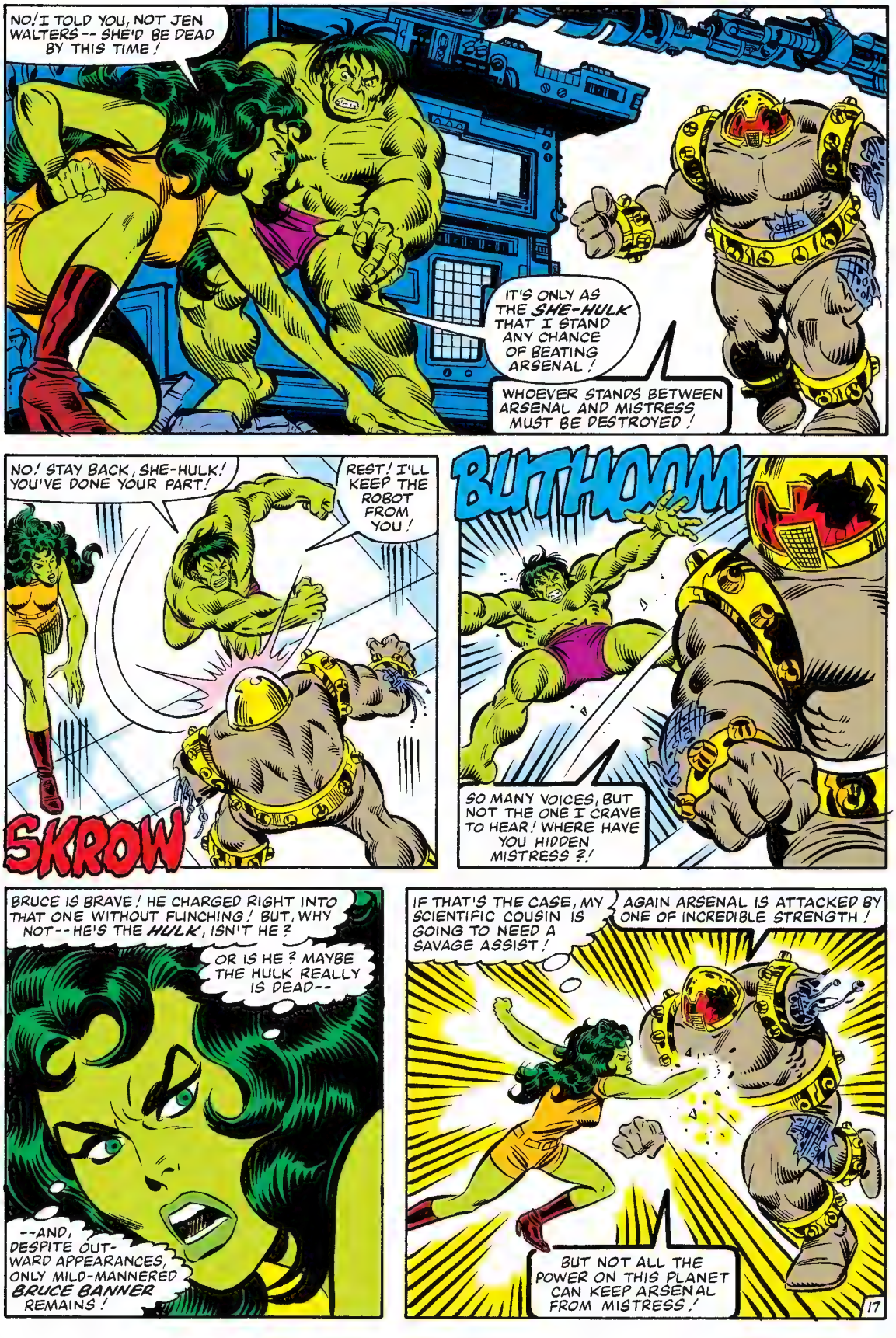

OMNIVAC HAS BEEN DETECTED! THE LEADER IS LOCATED! UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO ONE PRESENT TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT HE POSES...
12

... FOR ALL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON ANOTHER MENACE CLOSER TO HOME!
WHO--?
I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM THE AVENGER FILES!
HE'S CALLED ARSENAL, THE LIVING WEAPON!
M-MISTRESS SHE-HULK-- HE EMERGED FROM BENEATH THE FLOOR-- FROM THE DEEPEST SUB-LEVEL OF AVENGERS MANSION...!
13


MISTRESS? THE HUMAN ADDRESSES MISTRESS?!
WHERE IS MISTRESS? WHERE?!?
THE KILLER ROBOT RESPONDS TO THE MANNER IN WHICH JARVIS ADDRESSED SHE-HULK...
...BUT IT IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT "MISTRESS" ARSENAL HAS IN MIND--THE MISTRESS HE SERVED WHEN FIRST HE AWOKE FROM HIS LONG, DREAMLESS SLUMBER!
I AM... ARSENAL! MY MISSION: TO SAFEGUARD AMERICA! TO FULFILL MY PROGRAMMING, THOSE WITH THE POWER TO OPPOSE ME MUST BE DESTROYED!
ARSENAL HAD BEEN BUILT BY HOWARD STARK--TONY STARK'S FATHER--AS A DRONE WARRIOR IN THE CLOSING DAYS OF WORLD WAR II.
ARSENAL'S CONTROL HAD BEEN A COMPUTER CODE-NAMED MISTRESS...
THE WAR IS LONG OVER, MISTRESS! HOWARD STARK IS DEAD. YOU ARE DEAD...
...OR RATHER, THE WOMAN WHOSE BRAIN-PATTERNS GAVE YOU LIFE IS DEAD.
...PROGRAMMED WITH THE PERSONA OF MARIA STARK, HOWARD STARK'S WIFE.
UNABLE TO BEAR THE TRUTH OF HER "SON'S" STATEMENT, MISTRESS ERASED HER OWN PROGRAMMING.
BREEEEEE
SHE "DIED" IF ONE CAN APPLY THAT TERM TO A MACHINE.
HER MOBILE COMPANION, HE WHO CARRIED OUT HER COMMANDS, DIED ALSO... OR SO THE AVENGERS BELIEVED. *
*AVENGERS ANNUAL #9--AL.
BUT, IN REALITY, THE LIVING WEAPON MERELY PLUNGED THROUGH THE SUB-BASEMENT FLOOR OF AVENGERS MANSION...
...INTO A SUBTERRANEAN STREAM RUNNING WELL BELOW MANHATTAN...
...AND THERE, IN SILENCE, REPAIRED HIMSELF AS BEST HE WAS ABLE...
...UNTIL HE AGAIN FELT STRONG ENOUGH TO RISE UP IN SEARCH OF MISTRESS!
14

THE ROBOT SEEMS TO BE BLIND, JEN--AND CRIPPLED!
DON'T CALL ME "JEN", HULK--IT UPSETS MY CONCENTRATION! I'VE GOT TO BE THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK NOW, TO DEAL WITH THIS MENACE!
BUT, YES--HE APPEARS BLIND! STILL, AVENGER FILES INDICATE THAT HE HAS A SCORE OF BUILT-IN SENSORS ON WHICH TO RELY!
BUT I'M GOING IN TO GET JARVIS!
SHE-HULK SAYS THE AVENGERS HAVE FOUGHT THIS ROBOT BEFORE!
THE AVENGERS--ALL OF THEM--THOR, WONDER MAN, IRON MAN... THE MIGHTIEST OF THE MIGHTY!
NOW MY COUSIN IS GOING UP AGAINST THE AUTOMATON ALONE!
THROOM
BEAT IT, JARVIS! SUMMON THE OTHER AVENGERS IF YOU WANT TO--BUT TELL THEM THERE'S NO URGENCY!
I'LL HAVE ARSENAL ON ICE LONG BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS GET HERE!
Y-YES, INDEED, MADAM!
15

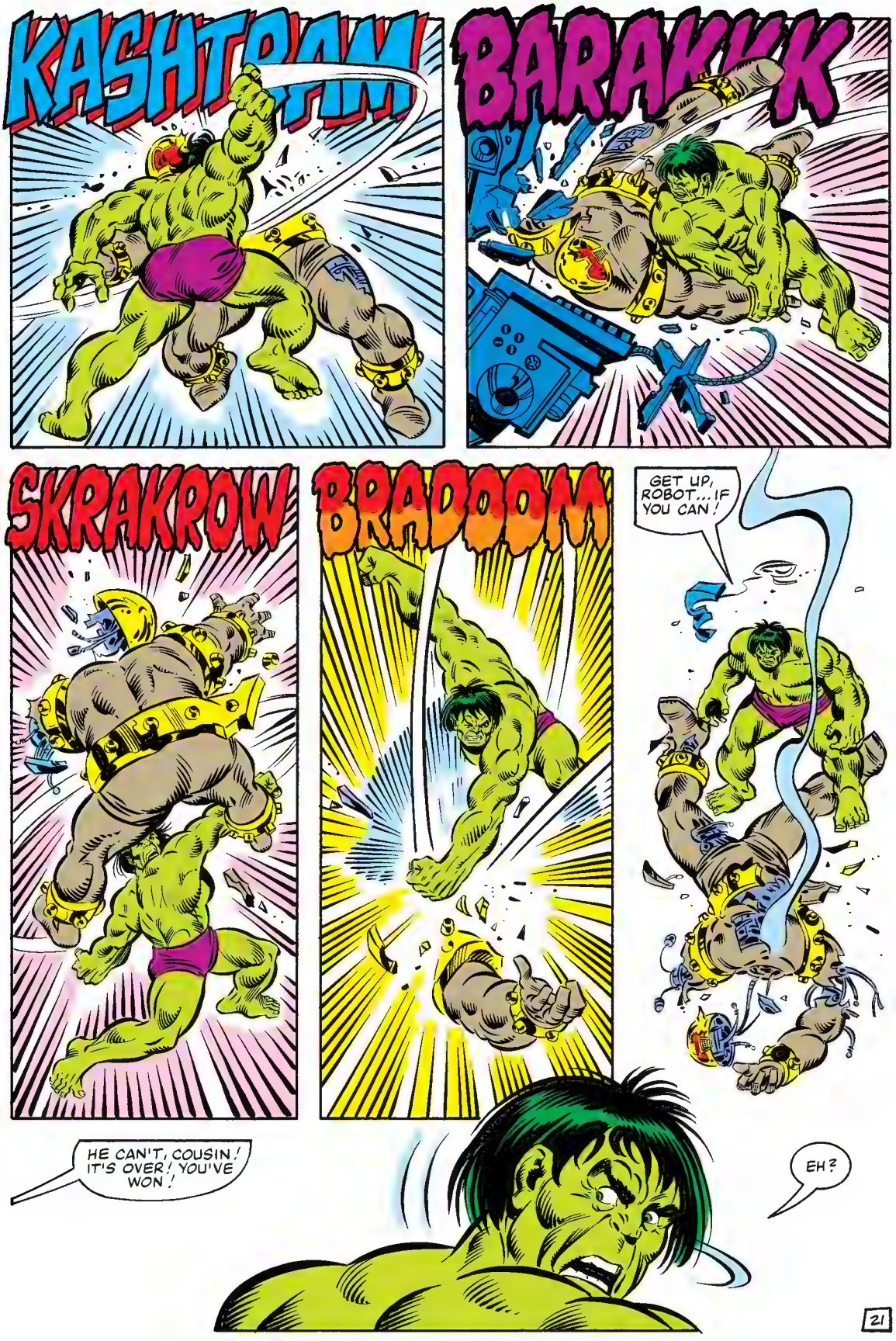
I COULD TELL JARVIS DIDN'T QUITE BELIEVE ME! WELL, THAT'S OKAY--I'M NEW TO THE AVENGERS!
BRATAK
STILL, THIS SHOULD DISPEL ANY DOUBTS--!
ZRCET
UNH! SOME KIND OF RAY-BURST FROM THE ROBOT'S EYE-LENS!
F-FEEL THE FIGHT GOING OUT OF ME... THE STRENGTH DRAINING FROM MY MUSCLES! CAN'T SEEM TO ACT... TO THINK!
BUT ARSENAL CAN!!!
FWAM
KATHRUD
JEN!!
16

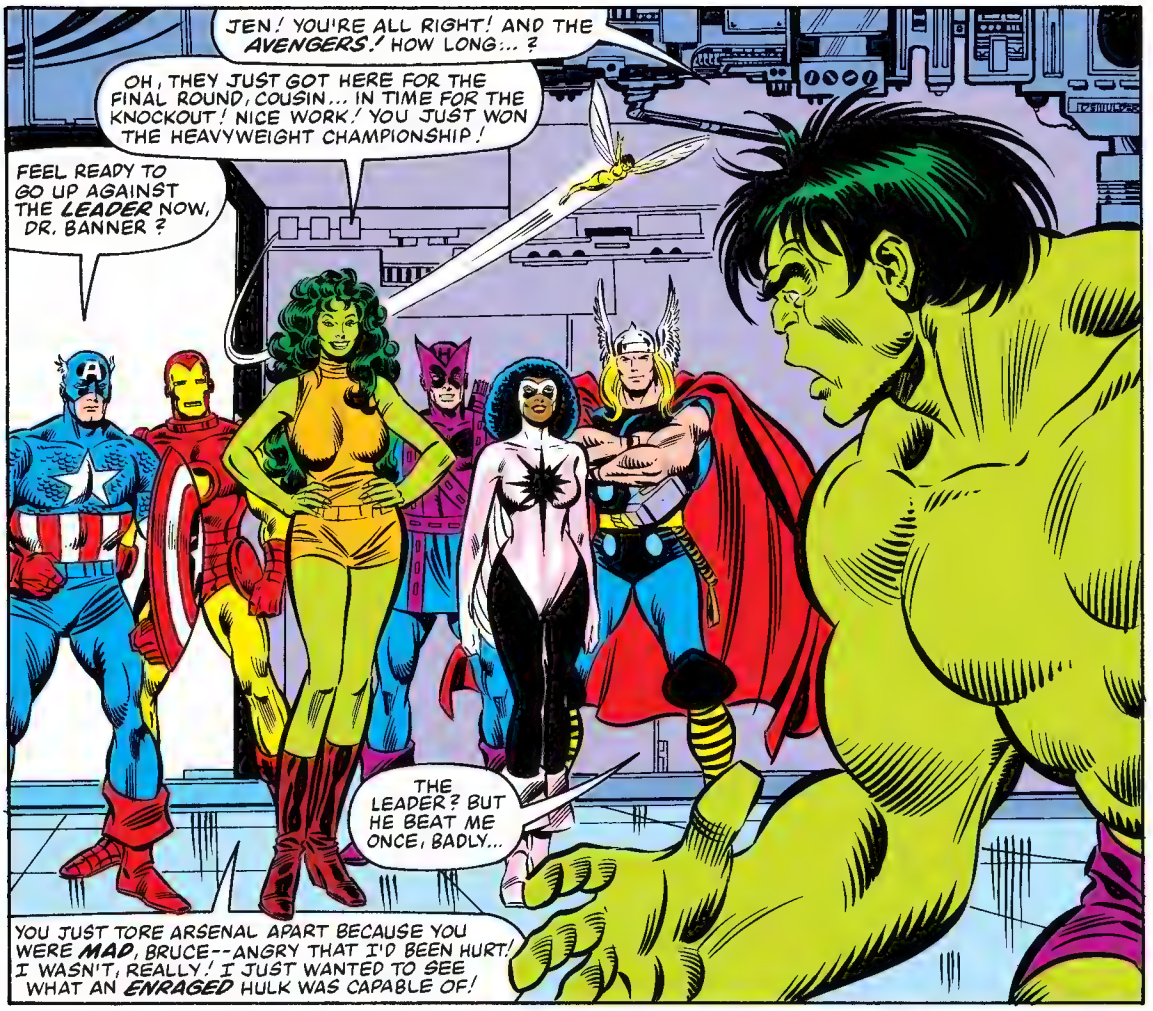

NO! I TOLD YOU, NOT JEN WALTERS -- SHE'D BE DEAD BY THIS TIME!
IT'S ONLY AS THE SHE-HULK THAT I STAND ANY CHANCE OF BEATING ARSENAL!
WHOEVER STANDS BETWEEN ARSENAL AND MISTRESS MUST BE DESTROYED!
NO! STAY BACK, SHE-HULK! YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART!
REST! I'LL KEEP THE ROBOT FROM YOU!
SKROW
BUTHOOM
SO MANY VOICES, BUT NOT THE ONE I CRAVE TO HEAR! WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN MISTRESS?!
BRUCE IS BRAVE! HE CHARGED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE WITHOUT FLINCHING! BUT, WHY NOT -- HE'S THE HULK, ISN'T HE?
OR IS HE? MAYBE THE HULK REALLY IS DEAD --
--AND, DESPITE OUTWARD APPEARANCES, ONLY MILD-MANNERED BRUCE BANNER REMAINS!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, MY SCIENTIFIC COUSIN IS GOING TO NEED A SAVAGE ASSIST!
AGAIN ARSENAL IS ATTACKED BY ONE OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!
BUT NOT ALL THE POWER ON THIS PLANET CAN KEEP ARSENAL FROM MISTRESS!
17

FOR ONLY MISTRESS CAN HEAL ARSENAL!
ONLY MISTRESS CAN MAKE ME WHOLE!
SHE-HULK, LOOK! THE ROBOT'S CHEST IS PUCKERING, SHIFTING SHAPE, LOOKING FOR ALL THE WORLD LIKE--
--THE MUZZLE OF A CANNON!
KABLOOM
GNNGGG!
SHE-HULK! JEN!
SHE'S NOT SPEAKING--NOT MOVING! SHE'S HURT!
AND YOU DID THIS!!
18

I MAY HAVE MADE HER A MONSTER, BUT YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE HER A CORPSE!
GRAARGHH!
THE SAVAGE SNARL IS EVEN MORE FEARSOME FOR THE FACT THAT THERE IS A MAN OF INTELLIGENCE BEHIND IT! IT IS A SNARL OF GRIEF, OF RAGE!
AND, BE HE BRUCE BANNER OR THE HULK, THE GREATER HIS ANGER THE GREATER WILL HIS POWER BE!
MY ELECTRO-STUN-FIELD DID NOT STOP YOU?!
PERHAPS MY INERTIA-DARTS, THEN, WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT!
THE DARTS PENETRATE EMERALD FLESH! THEY DRAW BLOOD! THEY PRODUCE PAIN!
ARRGHH!
19

BUT WHATEVER DRUG THEY INJECT IS INCAPABLE OF ALLEVIATING THE ANGER SEETHING LIKE RED-HOT LAVA IN THE VEINS OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
I'M COMING FOR YOU, ROBOT! I'M GOING TO TEAR YOU CIRCUIT FROM CIRCUIT!
I AM ARSENAL, THE LIVING WEAPON!
WHERE ONE OFFENSIVE FAILS, I CAN CALL FORTH COUNTLESS OTHERS!
GAS, THIS TIME... ACRID, LETHAL!
THAT GAS COULD HAVE KILLED JEN-- IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE TO BLOW IT AWAY!
FWOOSH
I DON'T LIKE YOUR WAR-GAMES, ARSENAL!
FOR SUCH WAS I CREATED! WAR IS MY ONLY REASON FOR BEING!
THEN YOU'D BETTER START WHISTLING "TAPS" MURDER-MACHINE--
--BECAUSE THE BATTLE'S JUST ABOUT OVER!
20


KASHTOOM
BARAKKK
SKRAKROW
BRADOOM
GET UP, ROBOT... IF YOU CAN!
HE CAN'T, COUSIN! IT'S OVER! YOU'VE WON!
EH?
21


JEN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! AND THE AVENGERS! HOW LONG... ?
OH, THEY JUST GOT HERE FOR THE FINAL ROUND, COUSIN... IN TIME FOR THE KNOCKOUT! NICE WORK! YOU JUST WON THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP!
FEEL READY TO GO UP AGAINST THE LEADER NOW, DR. BANNER ?
THE LEADER? BUT HE BEAT ME ONCE, BADLY...
YOU JUST TORE ARSENAL APART BECAUSE YOU WERE MAD, BRUCE--ANGRY THAT I'D BEEN HURT! I WASN'T, REALLY! I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT AN ENRAGED HULK WAS CAPABLE OF!

THE LEADER DEFEATED YOU BECAUSE YOU FOUGHT WITH YOUR HEAD, COUSIN, AND NOT WITH THE HULK'S FIGHTING HEART! MAD, YOU'RE THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
SPEAKING OF EARTH, THAT'S WHERE THE LEADER ISN'T!
YOUR PROGRAMMING OF THE OMNI-DETECTOR HAS REVEALED THE LEADER'S ORBITAL HIDEOUT, DOCTOR!

NEXT MONTH: FOLLOW THE LEADER!

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
TM
GUEST-STARRING THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!
'NUFF SAID!

Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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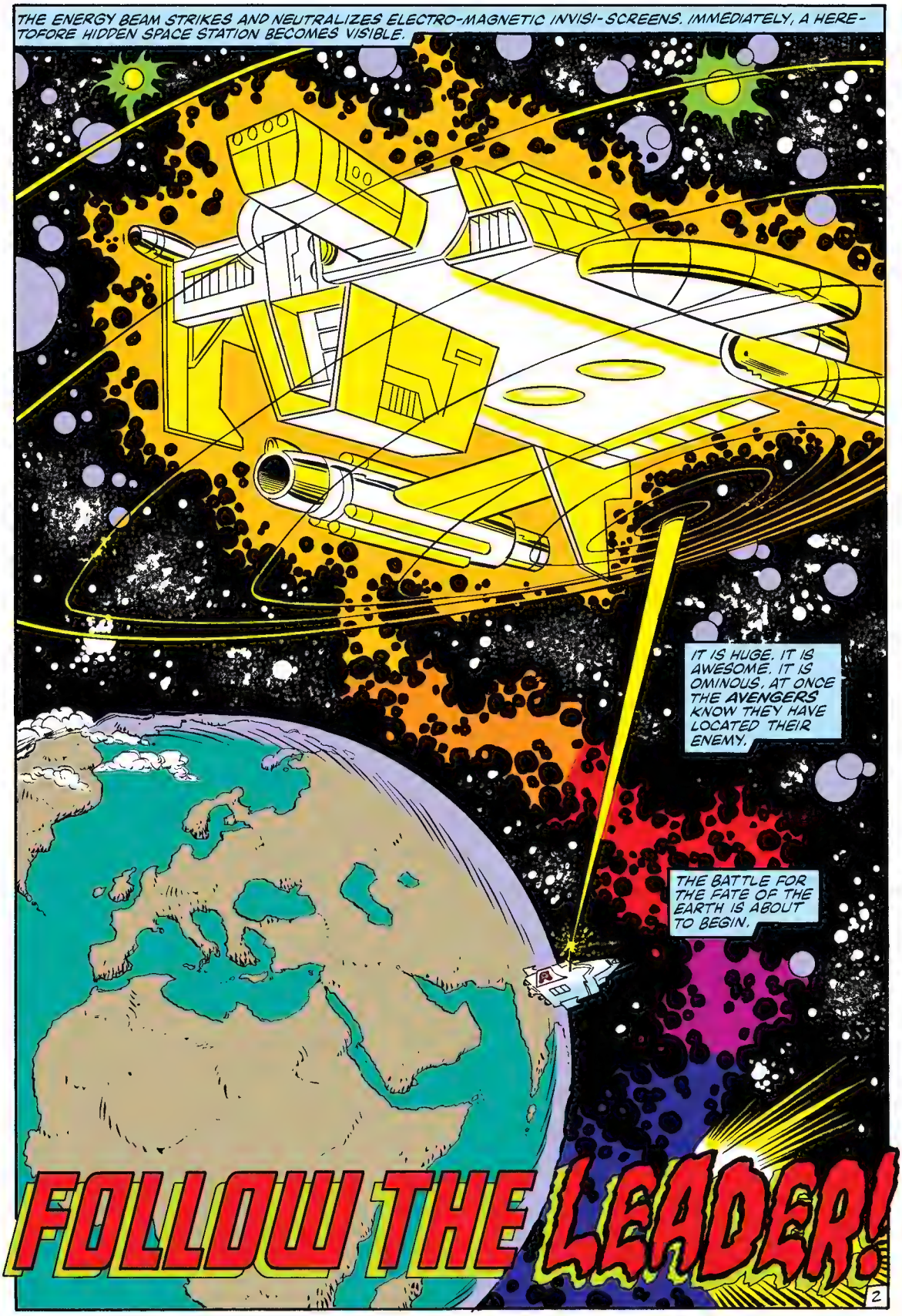
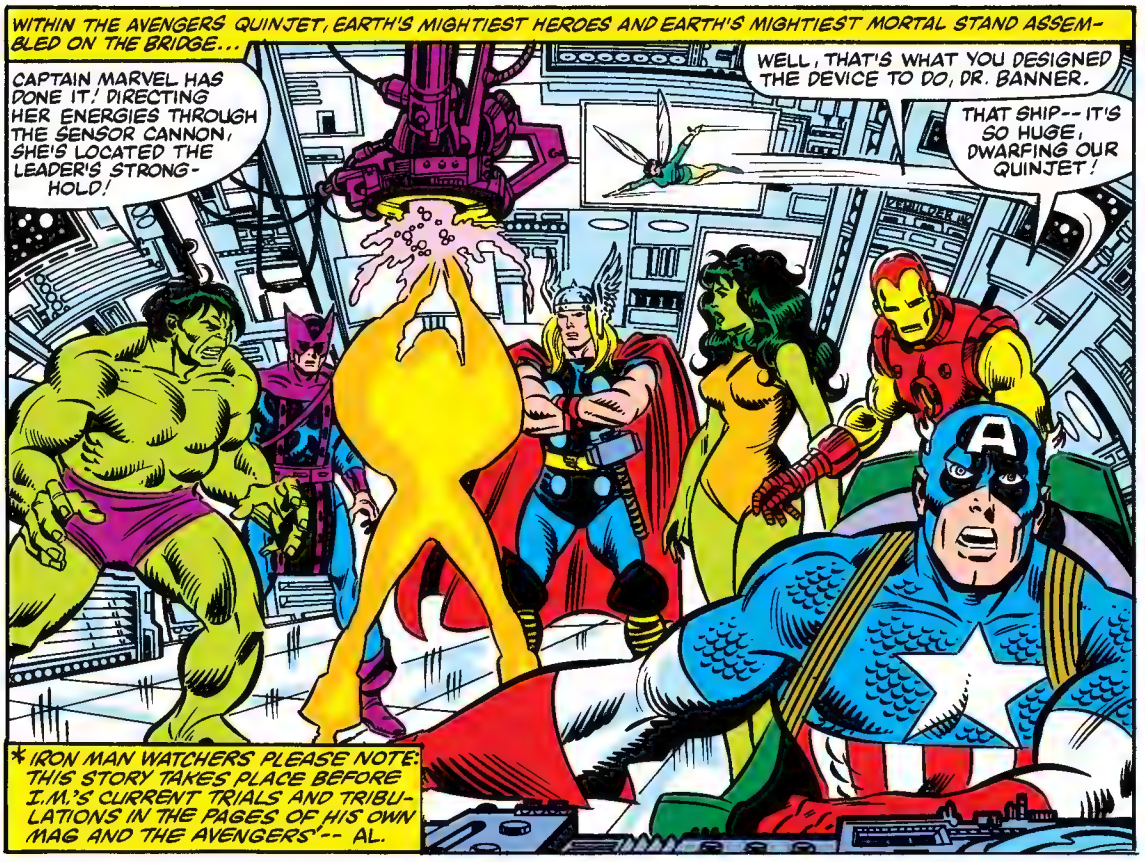
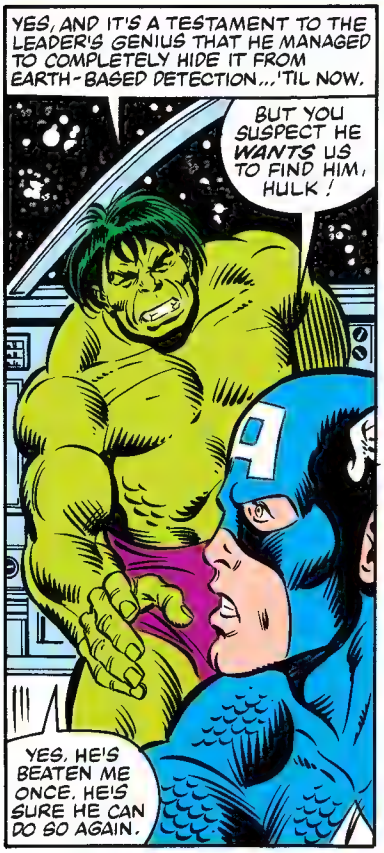
THE SLEEK, SILVER SPACECRAFT ARCS AWAY FROM EARTH AND INTO ORBIT.
THERE, ITS THRUSTERS HOLD IT ON A STEADY COURSE...
...AS A BEAM OF ENERGY STABS FORTH.

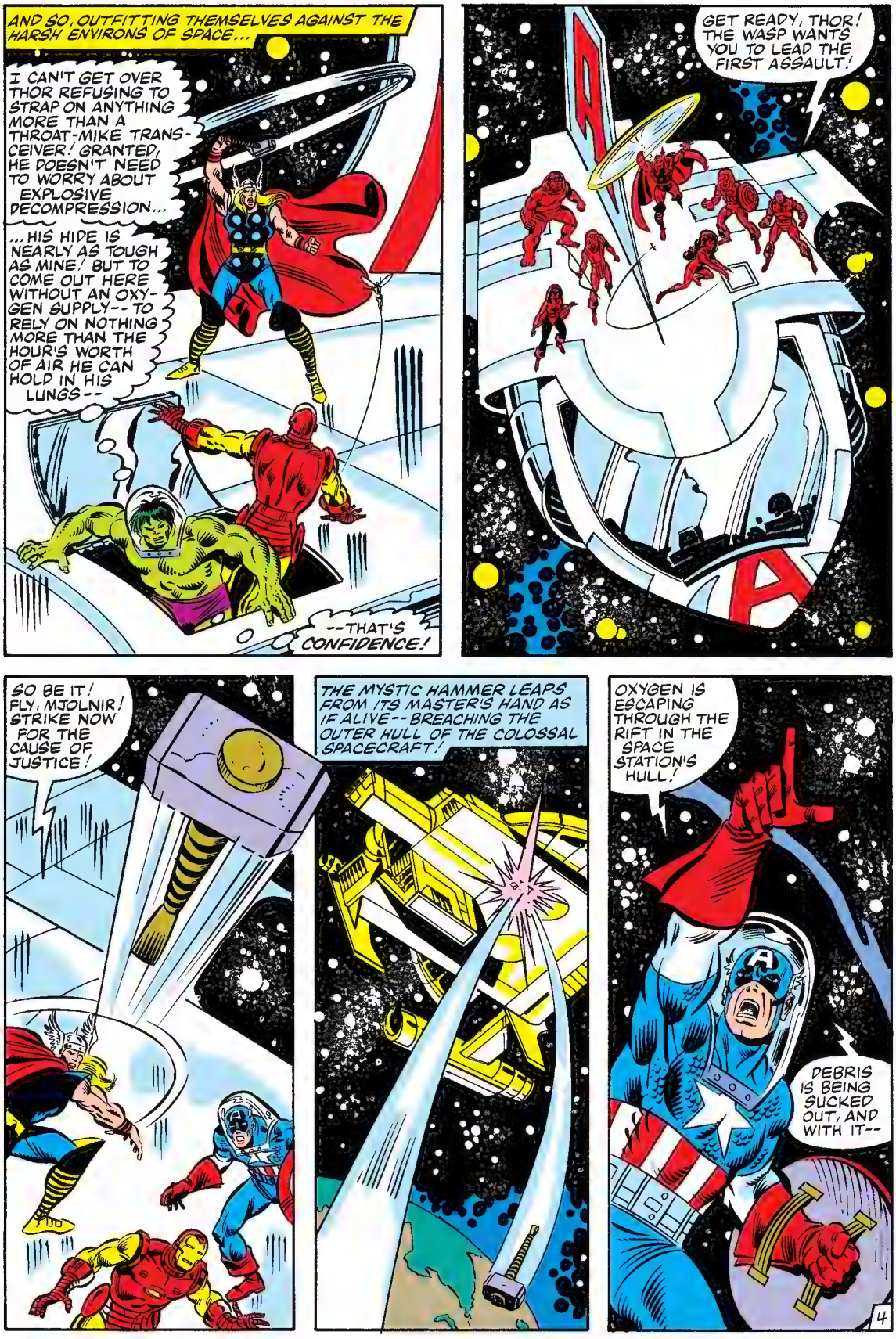

THE ENERGY BEAM STRIKES AND NEUTRALIZES ELECTRO-MAGNETIC INVISI-SCREENS. IMMEDIATELY, A HERE-TOFORE HIDDEN SPACE STATION BECOMES VISIBLE.
IT IS HUGE. IT IS AWESOME. IT IS OMINOUS. AT ONCE THE AVENGERS KNOW THEY HAVE LOCATED THEIR ENEMY.
THE BATTLE FOR THE FATE OF THE EARTH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
FOLLOW THE LEADER!
2


WITHIN THE AVENGERS QUINJET, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AND EARTH'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL STAND ASSEMBLED ON THE BRIDGE...
CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS DONE IT! DIRECTING HER ENERGIES THROUGH THE SENSOR CANNON, SHE'S LOCATED THE LEADER'S STRONGHOLD!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU DESIGNED THE DEVICE TO DO, DR. BANNER.
THAT SHIP-- IT'S SO HUGE, DWARFING OUR QUINJET!
*IRON MAN WATCHERS PLEASE NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE I.M.'S CURRENT TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS IN THE PAGES OF HIS OWN MAG AND THE AVENGERS'-- AL.

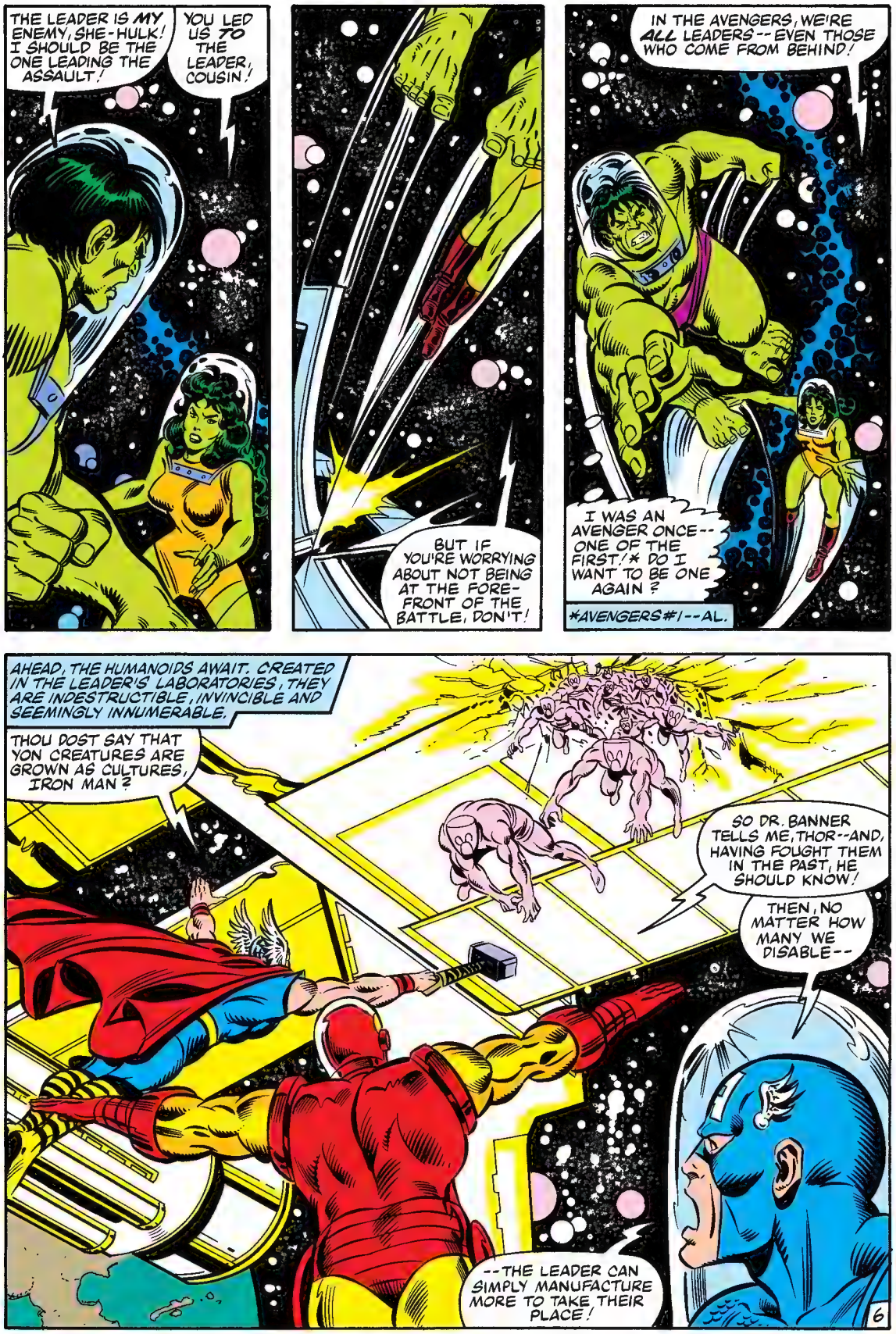

YES, AND IT'S A TESTAMENT TO THE LEADER'S GENIUS THAT HE MANAGED TO COMPLETELY HIDE IT FROM EARTH-BASED DETECTION... 'TIL NOW.
BUT YOU SUSPECT HE *WANTS* US TO FIND HIM, HULK!
YES, HE'S BEATEN ME ONCE. HE'S SURE HE CAN DO SO AGAIN.

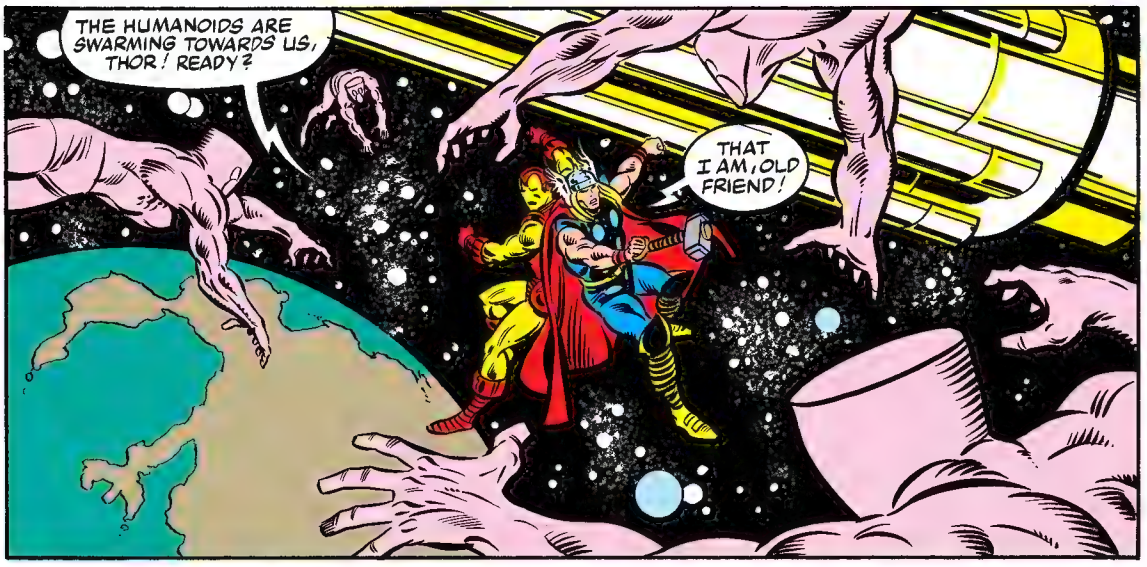
BUT THIS TIME HE'S FACING THE MIGHT OF THE AVENGERS AS WELL, HULK!
AND WE *DID* DEFEAT HIM ONCE BEFORE,!*
*HULK ANNUAL #11--AL.

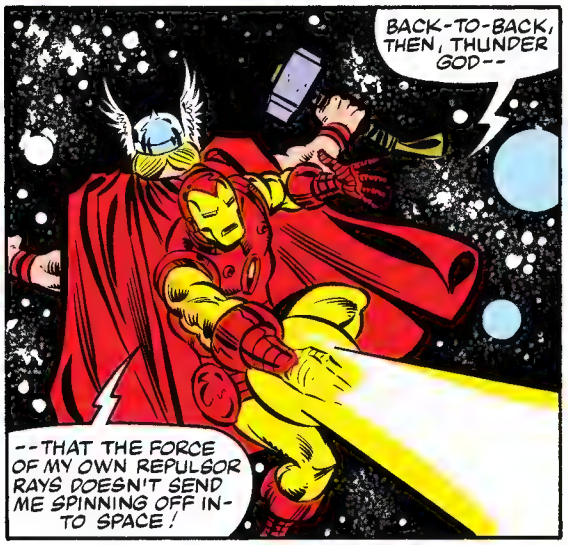
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE LEADER, WASP! THE SAME GAMMA RAYS THAT MADE ME THE INCREDIBLE HULK--
--MADE HIM THE EVIL GENIUS HE IS!
STILL, FRIEND HULK, WE ARE THE *AVENGERS* --'TIS OUR MISSION TO AVENGE INJUSTICE, NO MATTER HOW MIGHTY ITS PERPETRATOR!
3

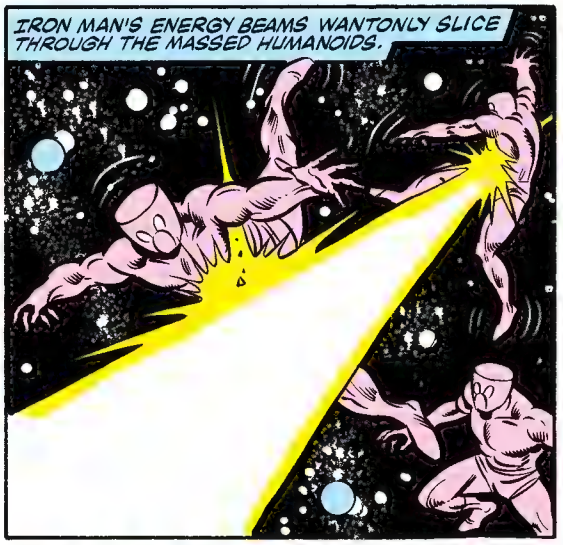

AND SO, OUTFITTING THEMSELVES AGAINST THE HARSH ENVIRONS OF SPACE...
I CAN'T GET OVER THOR REFUSING TO STRAP ON ANYTHING MORE THAN A THROAT-MIKE TRANSCEIVER! GRANTED, HE DOESN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT EXPLOSIVE DECOMPRESSION...
...HIS HIDE IS NEARLY AS TOUGH AS MINE! BUT TO COME OUT HERE WITHOUT AN OXYGEN SUPPLY-- TO RELY ON NOTHING MORE THAN THE HOUR'S WORTH OF AIR HE CAN HOLD IN HIS LUNGS--
--THAT'S CONFIDENCE!
GET READY, THOR! THE WASP WANTS YOU TO LEAD THE FIRST ASSAULT!
SO BE IT! FLY, MJOLNIR! STRIKE NOW FOR THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE!
THE MYSTIC HAMMER LEAPS FROM ITS MASTER'S HAND AS IF ALIVE--BREACHING THE OUTER HULL OF THE COLOSSAL SPACECRAFT!
OXYGEN IS ESCAPING THROUGH THE RIFT IN THE SPACE STATION'S HULL!
DEBRIS IS BEING SUCKED OUT, AND WITH IT--
4

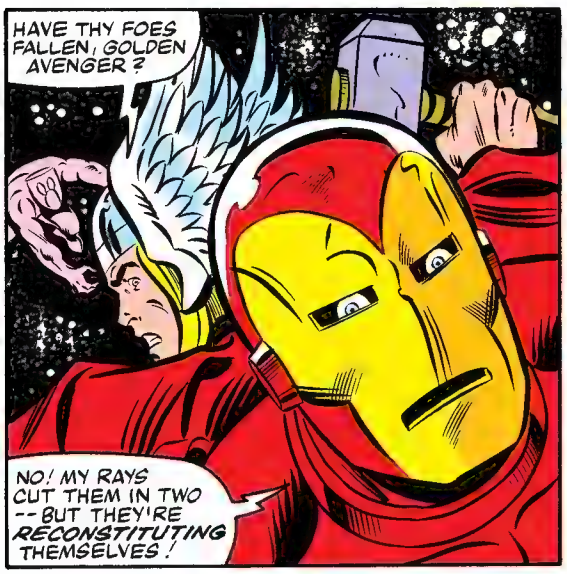
"--THE LEADER'S HUMANOIDS!"
THEY ARE NOT ALIVE, BUT PLASTICFORM REPRESENTATIONS OF LIFE.
THUS, THEY DO NOT FEEL PAIN, NOR DO THEY NEED TO BREATHE.
MASSING TOGETHER, THEY FORM A PERFECT PATCH OVER THE HOLE IN THE SPACECRAFT'S HULL.
WE'LL HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE HUMANOIDS TO REACH THE LEADER!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR THEN?
AVENGERS, ASSEMBLE!
IN SEVEN SETS OF HELMETS, THOR'S CLARION CALL RINGS CLEAR.
THE OTHERS FLY IN THE THUNDER GOD'S WAKE.
NONE EXHIBITS FEAR OR RELUCTANCE TO FACE THE FOE. THEY ARE AVENGERS. NO MORE NEED BE SAID.
5


THE LEADER IS MY ENEMY, SHE-HULK! I SHOULD BE THE ONE LEADING THE ASSAULT!
YOU LED US TO THE LEADER, COUSIN!
BUT IF YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT NOT BEING AT THE FORE-FRONT OF THE BATTLE, DON'T!
IN THE AVENGERS, WE'RE ALL LEADERS -- EVEN THOSE WHO COME FROM BEHIND!
I WAS AN AVENGER ONCE -- ONE OF THE FIRST.* DO I WANT TO BE ONE AGAIN?
*AVENGERS #1 -- AL.
AHEAD, THE HUMANOIDS AWAIT. CREATED IN THE LEADER'S LABORATORIES, THEY ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE, INVINCIBLE AND SEEMINGLY INNUMERABLE.
THOU DOST SAY THAT YON CREATURES ARE GROWN AS CULTURES, IRON MAN?
SO DR. BANNER TELLS ME, THOR -- AND, HAVING FOUGHT THEM IN THE PAST, HE SHOULD KNOW!
THEN, NO MATTER HOW MANY WE DISABLE --
-- THE LEADER CAN SIMPLY MANUFACTURE MORE TO TAKE THEIR PLACE!
6

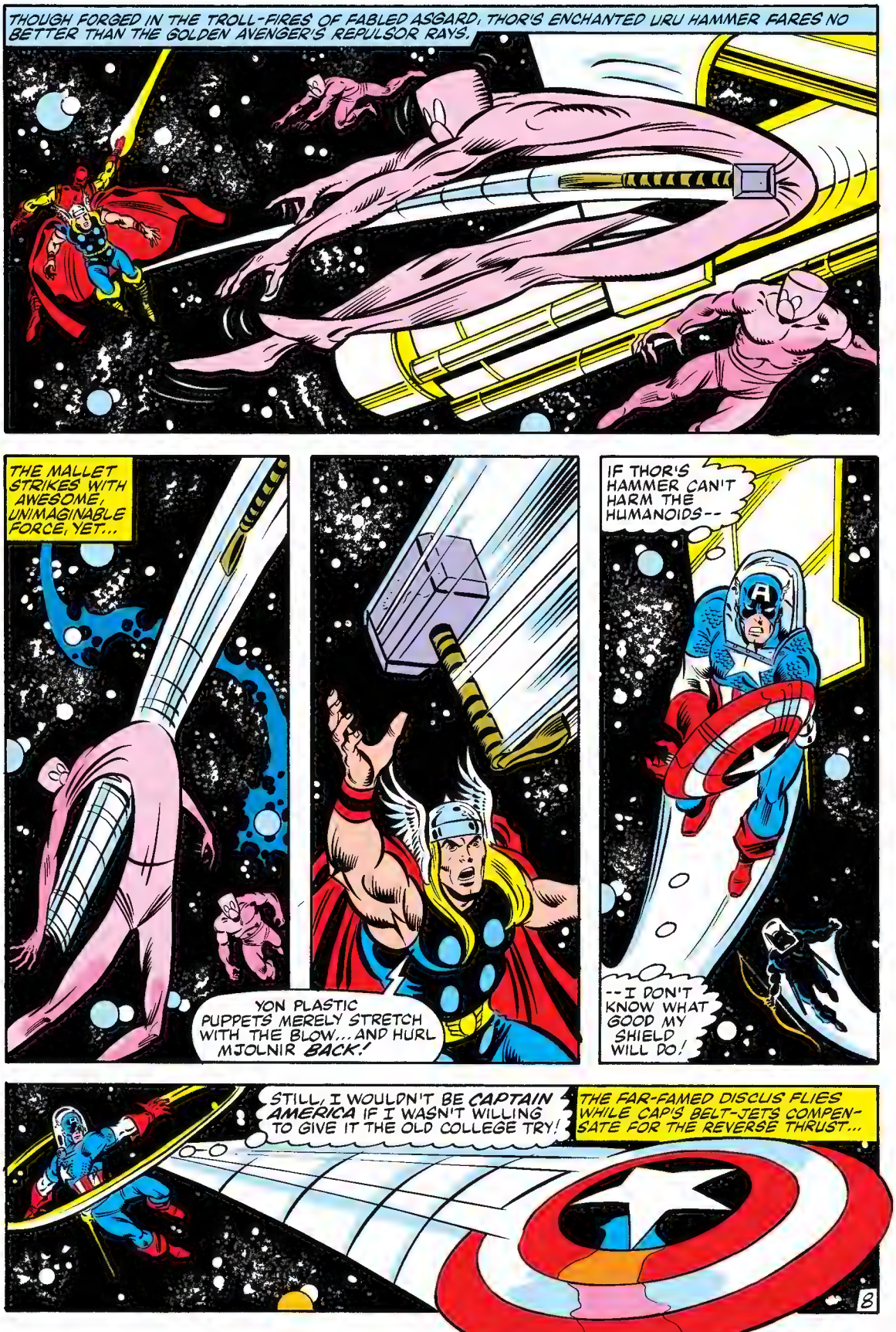

THE HUMANOIDS ARE SWARMING TOWARDS US, THOR! READY?
THAT I AM, OLD FRIEND!


BACK-TO-BACK, THEN, THUNDER GOD--
--THAT THE FORCE OF MY OWN REPULSOR RAYS DOESN'T SEND ME SPINNING OFF IN-TO SPACE!

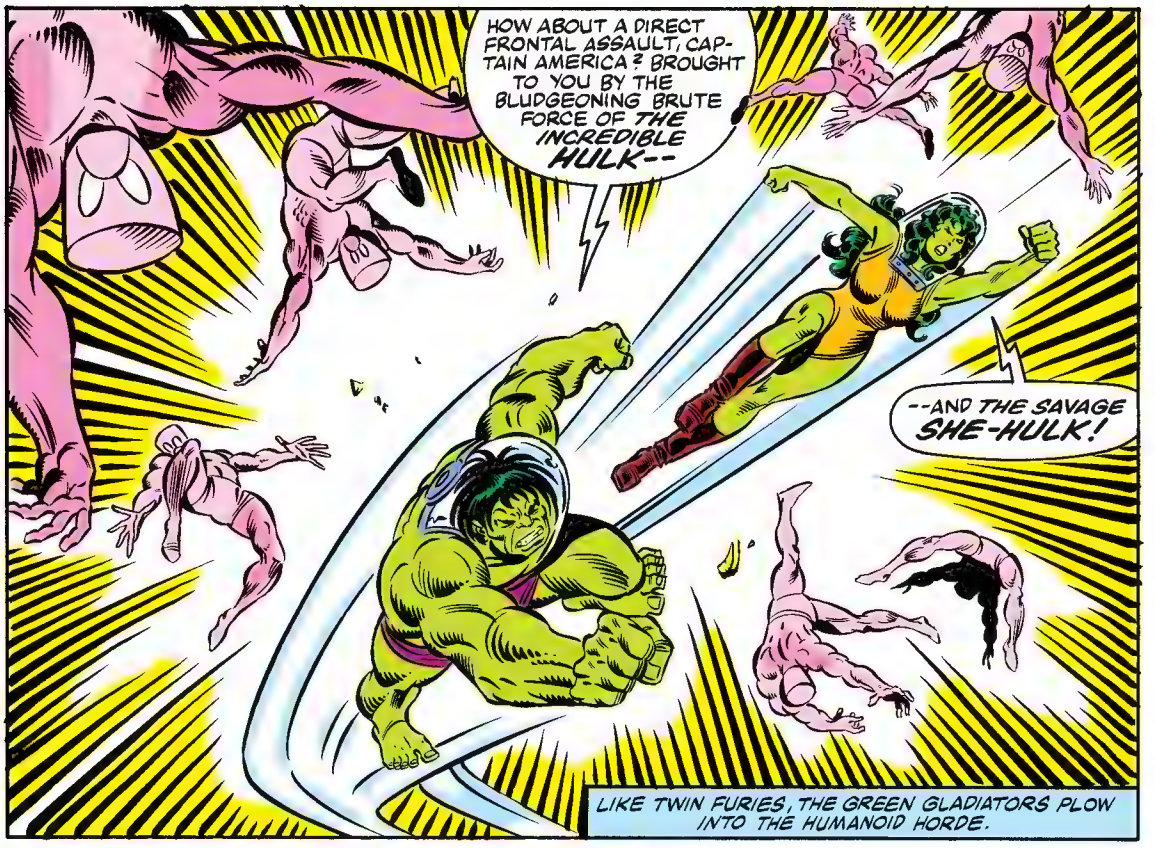

IRON MAN'S ENERGY BEAMS WANTONLY SLICE THROUGH THE MASSED HUMANOIDS.


HAVE THY FOES FALLEN, GOLDEN AVENGER?
NO! MY RAYS CUT THEM IN TWO --BUT THEY'RE RECONSTITUTING THEMSELVES!

BACK-TO-BACK, THEN, IRON MAN, AS THOU DIDST SAY!
'TIS TIME TO TEST MY MIGHTY MALLET 'GAINST YON UNLIVING ENEMIES!
7


THOUGH FORGED IN THE TROLL-FIRES OF FABLED ASGARD, THOR'S ENCHANTED URU HAMMER FARES NO BETTER THAN THE GOLDEN AVENGER'S REPULSOR RAYS.
THE MALLET STRIKES WITH AWESOME, UNIMAGINABLE FORCE, YET...
YON PLASTIC PUPPETS MERELY STRETCH WITH THE BLOW... AND HURL MJOLNIR BACK!
IF THOR'S HAMMER CAN'T HARM THE HUMANOIDS--
--I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD MY SHIELD WILL DO!
STILL, I WOULDN'T BE CAPTAIN AMERICA IF I WASN'T WILLING TO GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY!
THE FAR-FAMED DISCUS FLIES WHILE CAP'S BELT-JETS COMPENSATE FOR THE REVERSE THRUST...
8

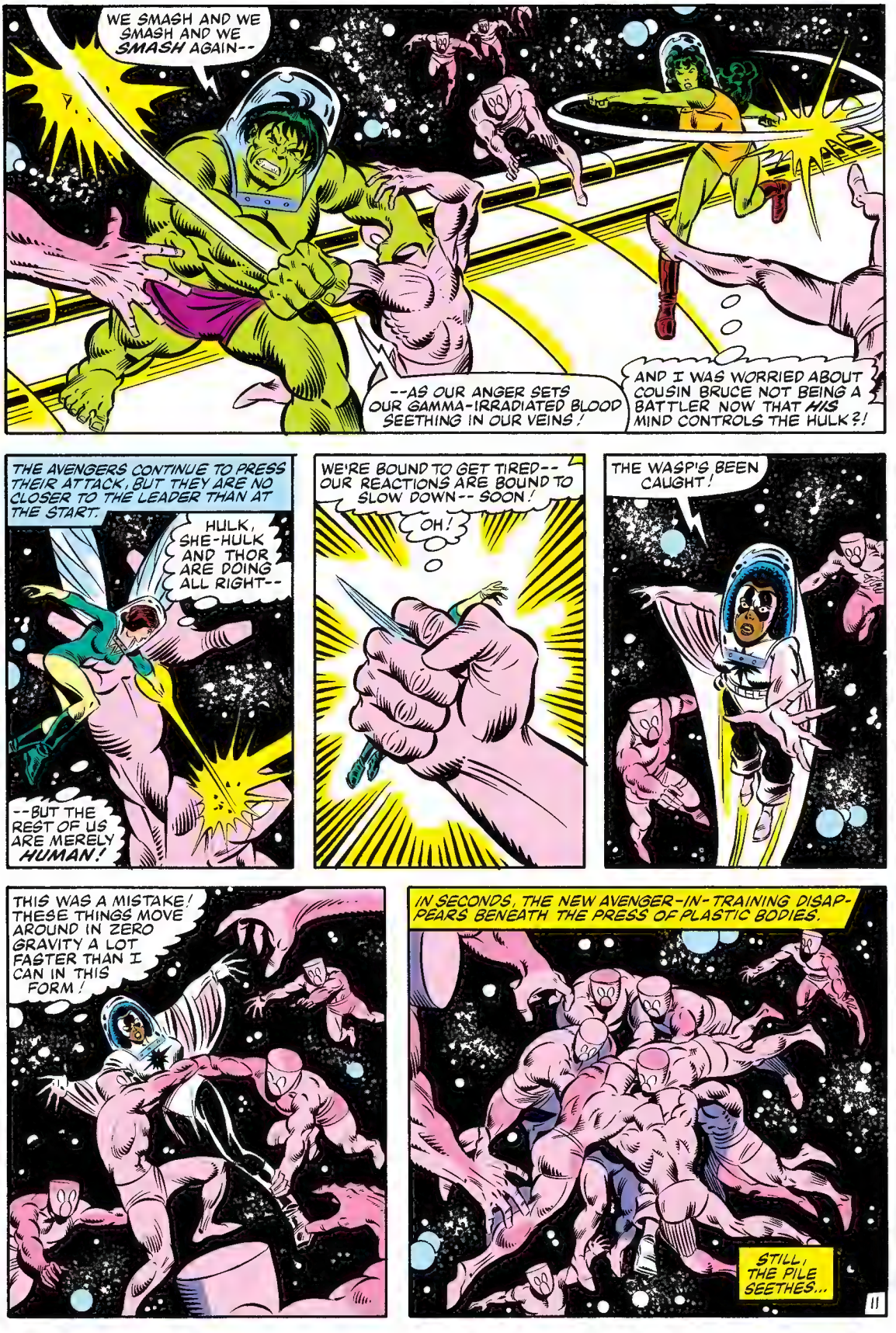
...BUT THE SHIELD MERELY BOUNCES FROM ONE PLASTIC BODY TO THE NEXT...
...SLOWING UNTIL IT IS STOPPED.
THEY'VE CAPTURED MY SHIELD!
DON'T GET YOUR JAWS IN AN UPROAR, CAP!
OL' HAWKEYE'LL GET YOUR STAR-STUDDED FRISBEE BACK!
AN EXPLOSIVE SHAFT STREAKS FROM THE BOW OF THE ACE ARCHER...
...ONLY TO BE SMOTHERED, DETONATING HARMLESSLY INSIDE THE BODY OF YET ANOTHER HUMANOID.
SHEESH! THIS IS GETTING EMBARASSING!
NOT TO MENTION EXPENSIVE! THOSE GELGINITE ARROWS COST MONEY!
WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING NOTHING! WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A STRATEGY-- SOME PLAN OF ATTACK!
9

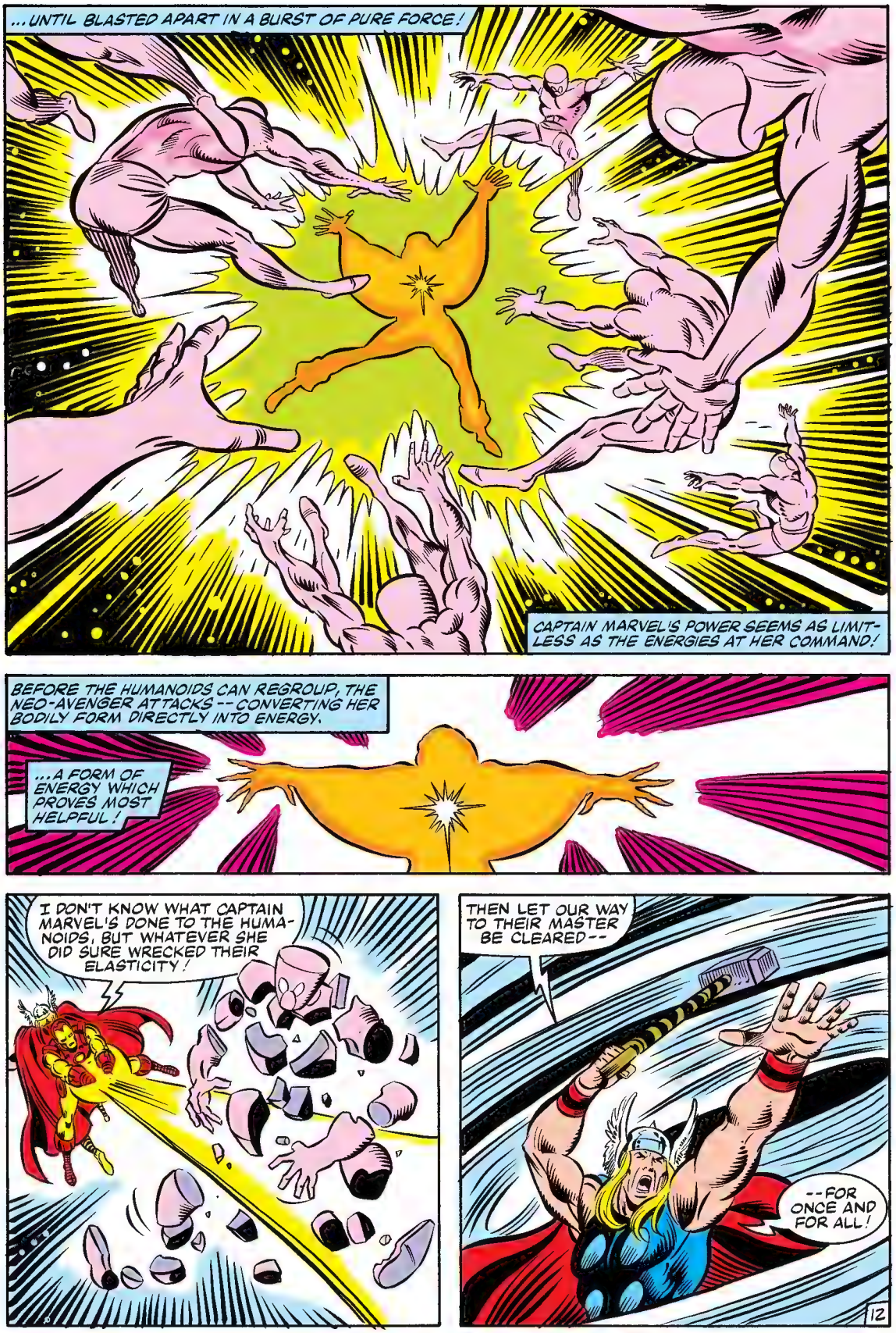

HOW ABOUT A DIRECT FRONTAL ASSAULT, CAPTAIN AMERICA? BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BLUDGEONING BRUTE FORCE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK--
--AND THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK!
LIKE TWIN FURIES, THE GREEN GLADIATORS PLOW INTO THE HUMANOID HORDE.

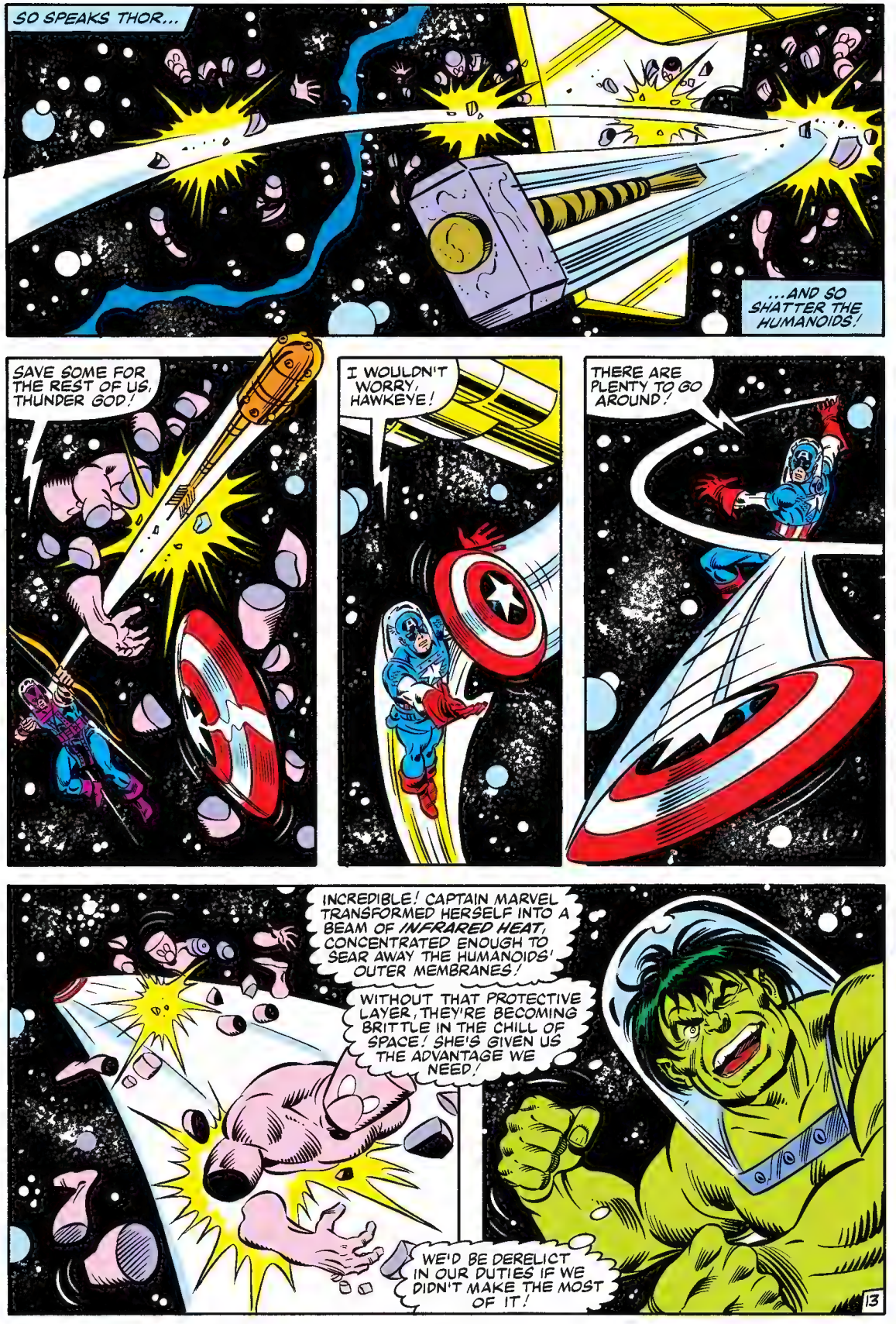
WE'VE DISPERSED THEM, COUSIN!
BUT MORE WILL TAKE THEIR PLACE, COUSIN!

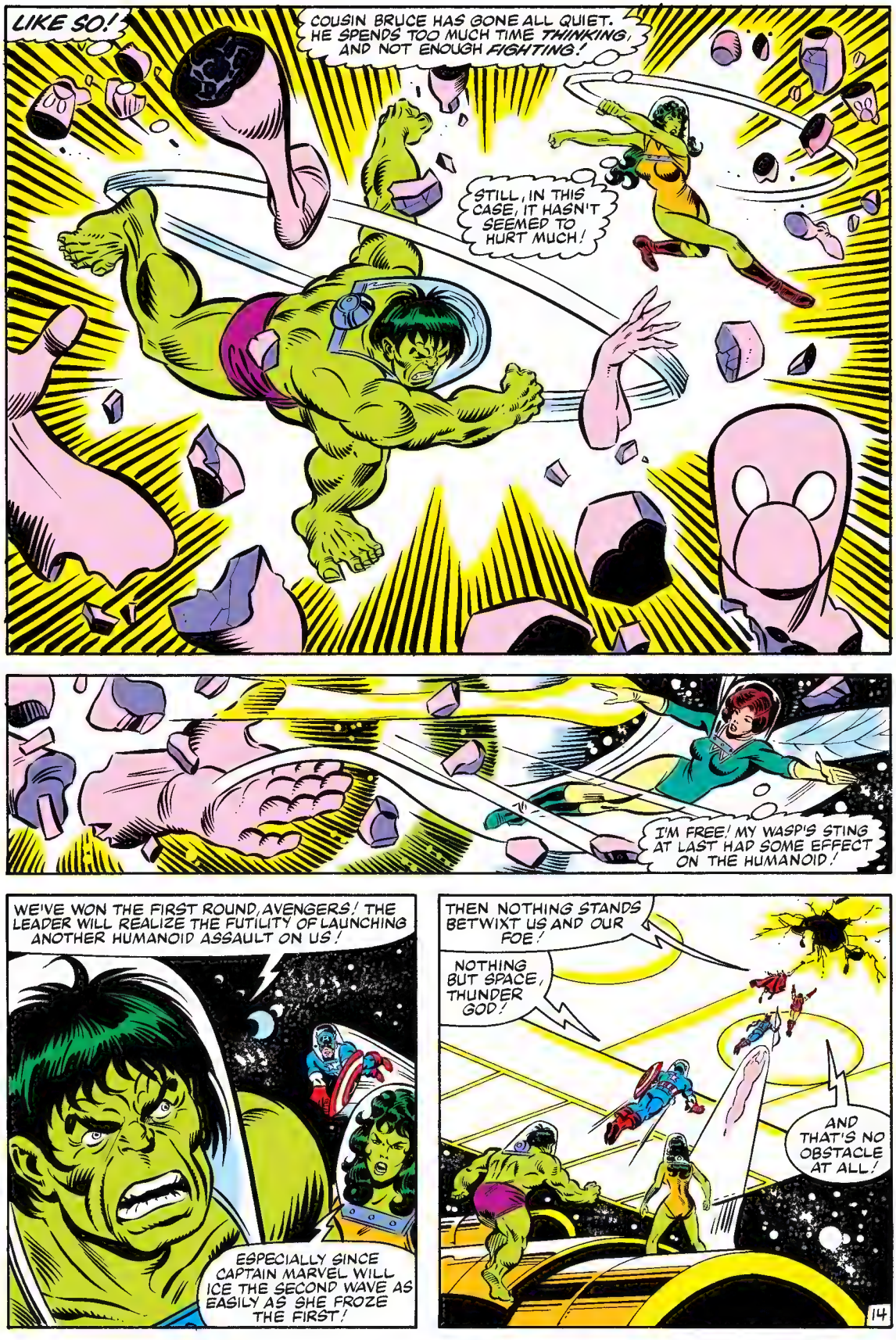
STREAMING FROM THE LEADER'S CRAFT IN WAVE UPON WAVE UPON WAVE!

WHAT DO WE DO, BRUCE?
WHAT WE DO BEST, JEN! WHAT THE GAMMA RAYS THAT CREATED US MADE US MASTERS OF!
10


WE SMASH AND WE SMASH AND WE SMASH AGAIN--
--AS OUR ANGER SETS OUR GAMMA-IRRADIATED BLOOD SEETHING IN OUR VEINS!
AND I WAS WORRIED ABOUT COUSIN BRUCE NOT BEING A BATTLER NOW THAT HIS MIND CONTROLS THE HULK?!
THE AVENGERS CONTINUE TO PRESS THEIR ATTACK, BUT THEY ARE NO CLOSER TO THE LEADER THAN AT THE START.
HULK, SHE-HULK AND THOR ARE DOING ALL RIGHT--
--BUT THE REST OF US ARE MERELY HUMAN!
WE'RE BOUND TO GET TIRED-- OUR REACTIONS ARE BOUND TO SLOW DOWN-- SOON!
OH!
THE WASP'S BEEN CAUGHT!
THIS WAS A MISTAKE! THESE THINGS MOVE AROUND IN ZERO GRAVITY A LOT FASTER THAN I CAN IN THIS FORM!
IN SECONDS, THE NEW AVENGER-IN-TRAINING DISAPPEARS BENEATH THE PRESS OF PLASTIC BODIES.
STILL, THE PILE SEETHES...
11


...UNTIL BLASTED APART IN A BURST OF PURE FORCE!
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S POWER SEEMS AS LIMITLESS AS THE ENERGIES AT HER COMMAND!
BEFORE THE HUMANOIDS CAN REGROUP, THE NEO-AVENGER ATTACKS -- CONVERTING HER BODILY FORM DIRECTLY INTO ENERGY.
...A FORM OF ENERGY WHICH PROVES MOST HELPFUL!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAPTAIN MARVEL'S DONE TO THE HUMANOIDS, BUT WHATEVER SHE DID SURE WRECKED THEIR ELASTICITY!
THEN LET OUR WAY TO THEIR MASTER BE CLEARED--
--FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!
12


SO SPEAKS THOR...
...AND SO SHATTER THE HUMANOIDS!
SAVE SOME FOR THE REST OF US, THUNDER GOD!
I WOULDN'T WORRY, HAWKEYE!
THERE ARE PLENTY TO GO AROUND!
INCREDIBLE! CAPTAIN MARVEL TRANSFORMED HERSELF INTO A BEAM OF *INFRARED HEAT*, CONCENTRATED ENOUGH TO SEAR AWAY THE HUMANOIDS' OUTER MEMBRANES!
WITHOUT THAT PROTECTIVE LAYER, THEY'RE BECOMING BRITTLE IN THE CHILL OF SPACE! SHE'S GIVEN US THE ADVANTAGE WE NEED!
WE'D BE DERELICT IN OUR DUTIES IF WE DIDN'T MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
13


LIKE SO!
COUSIN BRUCE HAS GONE ALL QUIET. HE SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME *THINKING*, AND NOT ENOUGH *FIGHTING*!
STILL, IN THIS CASE, IT HASN'T SEEMED TO HURT MUCH!
I'M FREE! MY WASP'S STING AT LAST HAD SOME EFFECT ON THE HUMANOID!
WE'VE WON THE FIRST ROUND, AVENGERS! THE LEADER WILL REALIZE THE FUTILITY OF LAUNCHING ANOTHER HUMANOID ASSAULT ON US!
ESPECIALLY SINCE CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL ICE THE SECOND WAVE AS EASILY AS SHE FROZE THE FIRST!
THEN NOTHING STANDS BETWIXT US AND OUR FOE!
NOTHING BUT SPACE, THUNDER GOD!
AND THAT'S NO OBSTACLE AT ALL!
14

THE AVENGERS SOON STAND INSIDE THE ENORMOUS SPACE STATION.
IT'S THE SIZE OF A SMALL CITY!
THIS ENTIRE SPACE STATION IS CONTROLLED BY ONE INCREDIBLE, COMPLEX, COMPUTER INTELLIGENCE--
--THE LEADER ALWAYS REFERS TO THE SHIP BY THE COMPUTER'S NAME...
WELCOME ABOARD, HEROES AND HEROINES!
I AM... OMNIVAC!
I PLACE THIS SHIP AT YOUR DISPOSAL!
YOU'RE THE COMPUTER INTELLIGENCE IN CHARGE ... THE SHIP ITSELF?!
I AM A HUMANOID REPRESENTATION OF BOTH, YES.
15

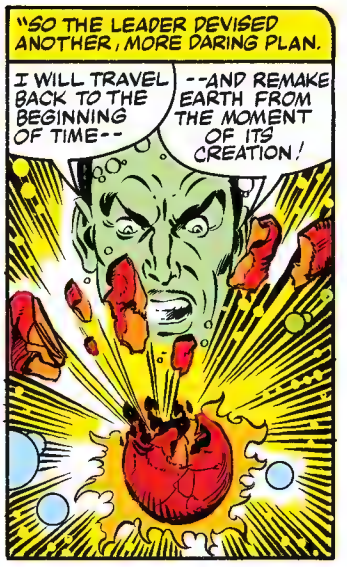
NOW, IF YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME... DINNER AWAITS.
IT'S A TRAP, AVENGERS!
OF COURSE IT IS, WASP!
BUT IF WE'RE TO FIND THE LEADER, WE'VE GOT TO PLAY HIS GAME--
--BY HIS RULES!
YOU MAY DISPENSE WITH YOUR HELMETS, NOW!
THERE IS A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE IN THIS SECTOR!
GOOD! I COULDN'T RETURN TO PHYSICAL FORM BEFORE, SINCE MY HELMET WAS CRUSHED IN SPACE!
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
THE LEADER, OMNIVAC-- WHERE IS HE?
I AM AFRAID THAT THE MASTER IS NOT AT HOME JUST NOW, DR. BANNER.
FOR THAT, I AM TO OFFER HIS SINCEREST APOLOGIES.
16

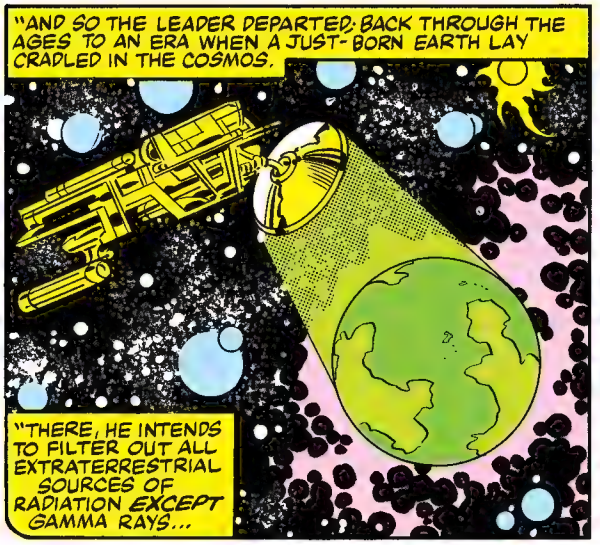
BUT HE HOPED THAT THE BANQUET HE BID ME PREPARE WOULD MORE THAN MAKE AMENDS.
I'LL NOT EAT YOUR MASTER'S FOOD, NOR DRINK HIS WINE, COMPUTER!
AND I'LL NOT ACCEPT THE HOSPITALITY OF ONE WHOSE ONLY DESIRE IS TO RULE THE WORLD!
A PITY, SIR.
FOR THE PROVENDER IS THE VERY BEST, AS IS THE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT. DO YOU LIKE IT?
MY MASTER COMPOSED IT HIMSELF.
IT'S COLD MUSIC-- MECHANICAL, CALCULATING.
LIKE THE LEADER HIMSELF!
WITH ALL THE BLACK CREPE DECKING THIS HALL, I FEEL LIKE I'M AT THE LAST SUPPER!
17

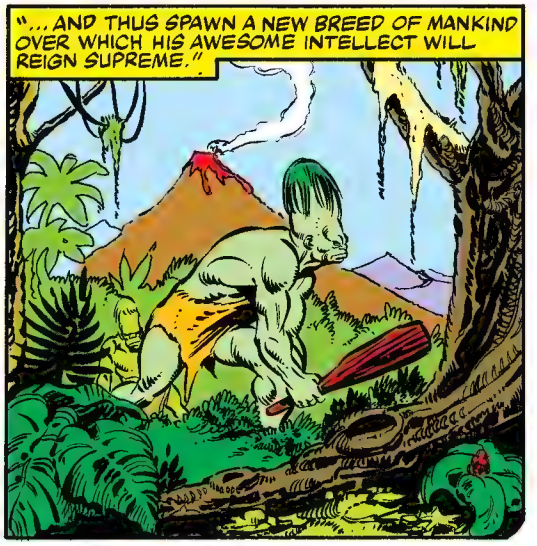
Y-YOU ARE, AVENGERS! FLEE!
FLEE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
A WOMAN, BRUISED AND BLEEDING, STAGGERING OUT OF THE SHADOWS!
SHE IS JACKDAW, ONE OF MY MASTER'S LESS OBEDIENT SERVANTS.*
THE LEADER DID THIS?!
*SEE HULK #275 AND ON--AL.
NO, I DID, AT HIS BIDDING.
WHAT?!
WHY, YOU FILTHY, BRUTALIZING MACHINE--!
UNHAND ME, HUMAN!
YEEOWW!
ZRAP!
HAWKEYE!
YOUR LITTLE CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME IS OVER, OMNIVAC! WHERE'S THE LEADER?
TELL US--AND TELL US NOW--OR ELSE...!
PLEASE. THERE IS NO NEED FOR VIOLENCE.
I SHALL REVEAL ALL, AS I WAS PROGRAMMED TO DO.
18

"MY MASTER HAS ONE ALL-ABIDING INTEREST.
TO RULE THE EARTH! TO ERASE ITS INCONSISTENCIES AND MAKE IT A MORE PERFECT PLANET!
"BUT, TO DO THAT, HE FELT HE WOULD FIRST HAVE TO RECREATE MAN AFTER HIS OWN IMAGE.

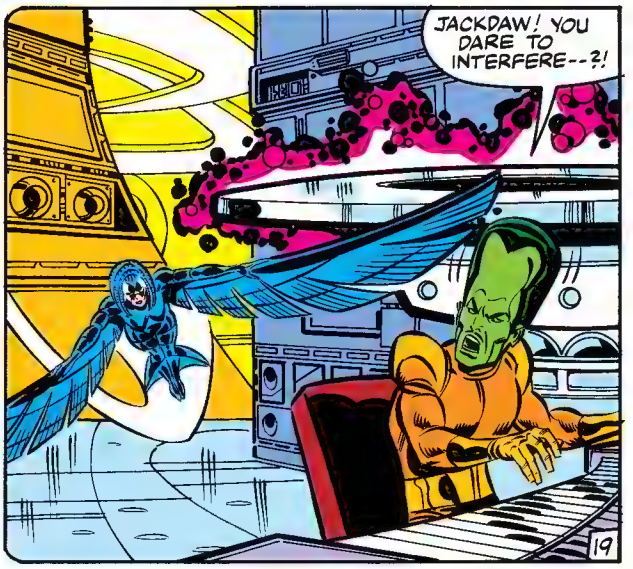
"HE TRIED IT ONCE BEFORE, BY INFECTING NEW YORK CITY WITH A GAMMA GENE.
"THE RESULTS, QUITE UNSATISFACTORY, WERE ABORTED BY YOU AVENGERS.*
*HULK ANNUAL #11--AL.

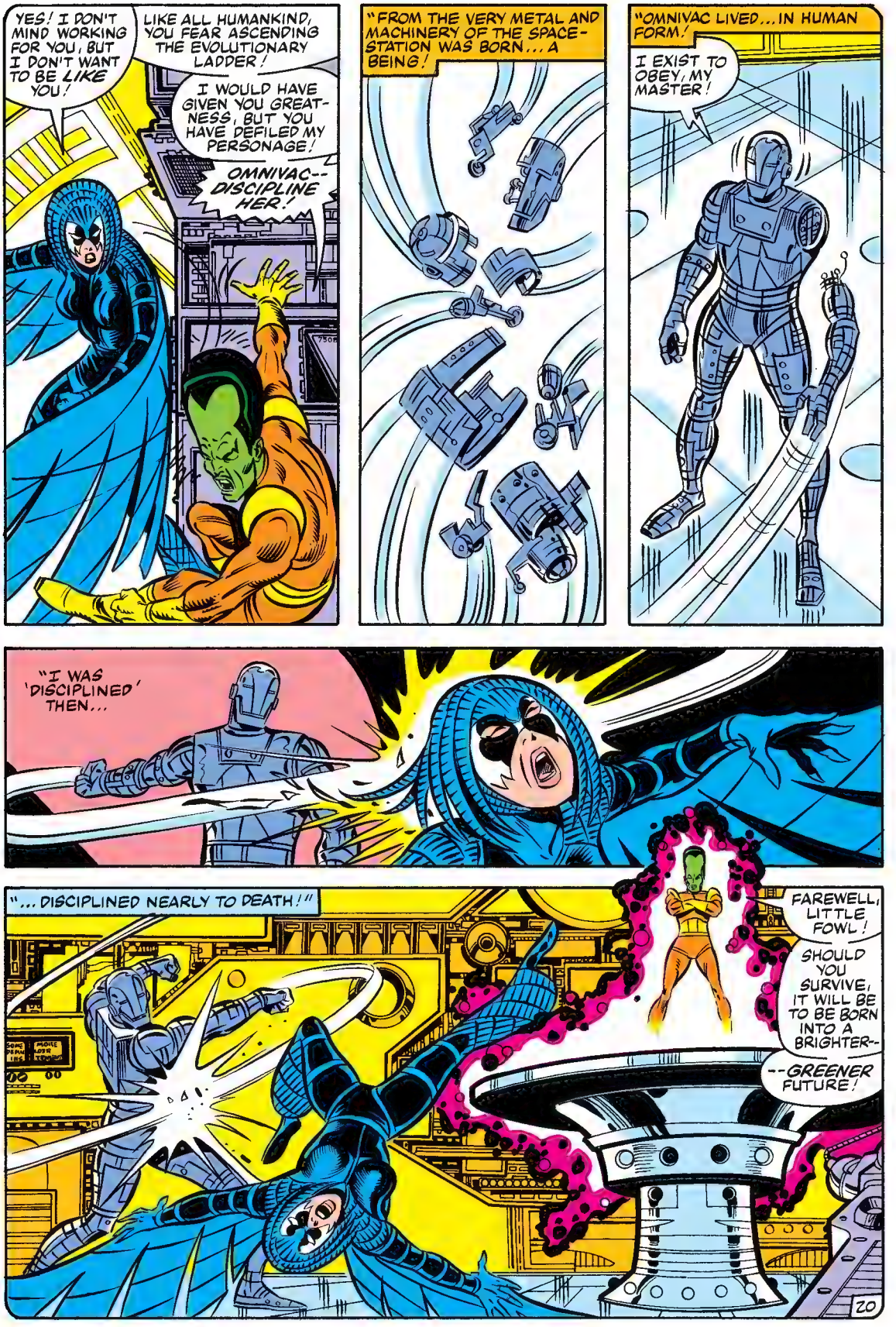

"SO THE LEADER DEVISED ANOTHER, MORE DARING PLAN.
I WILL TRAVEL BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF TIME--
--AND REMAKE EARTH FROM THE MOMENT OF ITS CREATION!


"AND SO THE LEADER DEPARTED: BACK THROUGH THE AGES TO AN ERA WHEN A JUST-BORN EARTH LAY CRADLED IN THE COSMOS.
"THERE, HE INTENDS TO FILTER OUT ALL EXTRATERRESTRIAL SOURCES OF RADIATION EXCEPT GAMMA RAYS...


"... AND THUS SPAWN A NEW BREED OF MANKIND OVER WHICH HIS AWESOME INTELLECT WILL REIGN SUPREME."

TH-THE LEADER MADE HIMSELF A TIME TRAVEL DEVICE! I TRIED TO STOP HIM!


JACKDAW! YOU DARE TO INTERFERE--?!
19


YES! I DON'T MIND WORKING FOR YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE YOU!
LIKE ALL HUMANKIND, YOU FEAR ASCENDING THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER!
I WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU GREATNESS, BUT YOU HAVE DEFILED MY PERSONAGE!
OMNIVAC--DISCIPLINE HER!
"FROM THE VERY METAL AND MACHINERY OF THE SPACE-STATION WAS BORN... A BEING!
"OMNIVAC LIVED... IN HUMAN FORM!
I EXIST TO OBEY, MY MASTER!
"I WAS 'DISCIPLINED' THEN...
"... DISCIPLINED NEARLY TO DEATH!"
FAREWELL, LITTLE FOWL!
SHOULD YOU SURVIVE, IT WILL BE TO BE BORN INTO A BRIGHTER--
--GREENER FUTURE!
20

THE LEADER FLED BACK INTO THE PAST! LIKE SOME INSANE GREEN GOD, HE INTENDS TO RECREATE THE HUMAN RACE!
WHILE YOU STAY BEHIND TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK!
ACTUALLY, DR. BANNER, MY MASTER BID ME DELAY YOU!
KN-KNOWING S-SOMEONE W-WOULD S-SOON T-TRY T-TO F-FOLLOW H-HIM...
...THE LEADER LEFT ME TO GET A SNARE FOR HIS PURSUERS.
WHAT KIND OF SNARE, COMPUTER? ANSWER ME OR I'LL...!
COUSIN, LOOK... THE AVENGERS!
THEY'RE BECOMING VAGUE, IMMATERIAL... VANISHING!
TH-THE LEADER SPOKE OF SOME SORT OF DELAYED TIME DEVICE...!
HE'S DISPATCHED THE AVENGERS THROUGHOUT TIME SO THAT THEY'LL BE HELPLESS TO FIND AND STOP HIM!
BUT YOU AND THE SHE-HULK WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE VANISHED, TOO. WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? WHY?!
21

WHY? MAYBE BECAUSE WE'RE PRODUCTS OF THE SAME GAMMA RAYS THAT CREATED THE LEADER!
HE WOULDN'T SUBJECT HIMSELF TO SOME FORCE OVER WHICH HE HAD NO CONTROL.
IMPOSSIBLE. MY MASTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF SUCH AN OVERSIGHT!
HE COULD, COMPUTER, AND HE DID! FOR ALL HIS PRETENSIONS OF SUPERIORITY, FOR ALL HIS VAST AND INCREDIBLE INTELLECT--
--THE LEADER IS STILL ONLY A MAN!
A DEADLY, DANGEROUS MAN... DERANGED BY DREAMS OF DOMINATION!
BUT HE'LL NOT SUCCEED! I'LL FIND HIM--AND STOP HIM OR DIE IN THE TRYING!
WE'LL STOP HIM, COUSIN!
22
NEXT MONTH:
A HUNT THROUGH HISTORY! DON'T DARE MISS...
TIME-LOST!

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TIME-LOST!

THE PLACE: THE LETHAL LEADER'S ORBITING SPACE STATION. THE TIME: NOW.

WHERE HAVE YOU SENT THE REST OF THE AVENGERS, ROBOT?! TELL ME, OR I SWEAR, I'LL--!

SHE-HULK, NO! SMASH OMNIVAC, AND WE MAY NEVER TRACK THE AVENGERS BACK THROUGH TIME!

LOOK, COUSIN! IN RIPPING UP THE TABLE AT WHICH THE AVENGERS SAT--
--YOU'VE REVEALED AN INTRICATE DEVICE WHICH CAN ONLY BE THE LEADER'S TIME PLATFORM!
GREAT, COUSIN! BUT NOW THAT WE'VE LOCATED IT--
"--HOW DO WE ACTIVATE IT TO GO AFTER THE LEADER, WHO USED IT TO JOURNEY TO THE MOMENT OF EARTH'S CREATION...
"...AND THE AVENGERS WHO HE DISPERSED ACROSS THE AGES TO INSURE THAT EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES WOULD BE UNABLE TO FOLLOW HIM?!"*
*AS RECOUNTED LAST ISH--AL.
THERE'S ONLY ONE BEING ABOARD THIS SPACE STATION CAPABLE OF ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION, COUSIN!
LET'S ASK OMNIVAC!
OMNIVAC...A HUMANOID PERSONIFICATION OF THE HUGE SPACE STATION'S COMPUTER BANKS.
HUMANOID... BUT INHUMAN. A LOYAL SERVANT TO THE LETHAL LEADER, OMNIVAC WAS TORN APART BY AN ANGRY HULK.
YOUR VOCAL MECHANISM IS ABOUT ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOU ROBOT. USE IT.
TELL US HOW TO FIND THE AVENGERS!
2

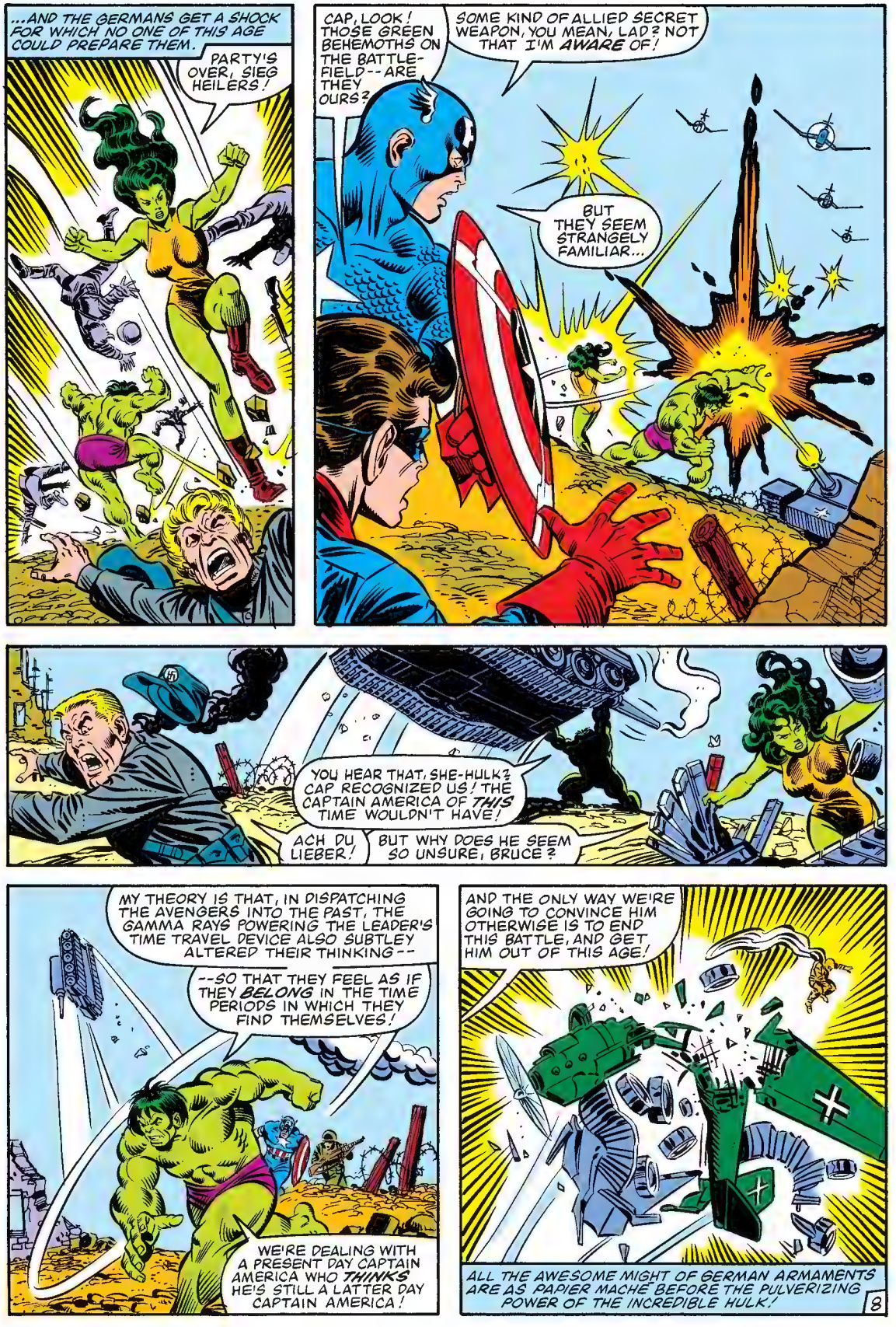
I'M AFRAID NOT, DR. BANNER! TO DO SO WOULD RUN CONTRA TO MY PROGRAMMING.
YOU'RE A MACHINE, OMNIVAC. --YET YOU LIKE BEING SENTIENT.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOSE WHAT YOU LIKE?
MEANING...?
MEANING, INSTANT LOBOTOMY IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE, ROBOT! WATCH--
--AS I SMASH THE COMPUTER DATA BANKS TO WHICH YOU'RE LINKED!
SKRAKK
BRAKK
ZRAKK
KTRAKK
I...STOP! I-I DO NOT WISH TO LOSE MY MIND!
JUST AS WE DON'T WISH TO SEE EARTH'S ENTIRE POPULATION ENSLAVED AND EVOLVED GREEN, AS THE LEADER INTENDS!
WHERE IS HE, OMNIVAC? HOW DO WE GO AFTER HIM?
EASIER DESCRIBED THAN DONE, DR. BANNER, YOU JUST... FOLLOW THE MUSIC.
EH? YOU'RE GESTURING TO THE HUGE PIPE ORGAN UPON WHICH YOU WERE PLAYING WHEN THE AVENGERS BURST IN?
3

OF COURSE! THE PIPE ORGAN ACTIVATES THE TIME TRAVEL PLATFORM!
BUT HOW, COUSIN--AND HOW DO WE USE IT?
THIS PIPE ORGAN IS JUST A TONE-PROGRAMMED COMPUTER, JEN. THAT'S WHY THE "MUSIC" IT EMITTED WAS SO COLD, MECHANICAL.
IT WAS NOT MUSIC AT ALL, IN FACT, BUT REALLY A MATHEMATICAL CODE --THAT MUST OPEN UP AN AVENUE THROUGH TIME.
IF ONLY I CAN CRACK THE "MUSICAL CODE," WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO... FOLLOW THE LEADER!
BY USING THE SAME TIME TRAVEL FREQUENCY WHICH TRANSPORTED THE LEADER--WE CAN SEND OUR OWN GAMMA-SATURATED FORMS ON THE SAME ROUTE TO THE PAST.
CAN YOU DO IT, BRUCE?
NEVER. THE SAME GAMMA RAYS THAT MADE BRUCE BANNER THE IMMENSELY POWERFUL HULK--
--ALSO MADE A COMMON LABORER THE INCREDIBLY BRILLIANT LEADER!
AND YOU'RE SAYING I HAVEN'T THE LEADER'S GENIUS, OMNIVAC?
PERHAPS NOT, BUT I'M STILL ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PHYSICISTS--
--WHICH MAKES ME MORE THAN CONVERSANT IN THE LANGUAGE OF MATHEMATICS.
FOLLOWING THE "NUMBERS", THE INCREDIBLE HULK PLAYS
4

IT IS THE LEADER'S SCORE THAT GUIDES HIS FINGERS, AND A MUSIC DEVOID OF ALL EMOTION, OF ALL HEART, OF ALL HUMANITY, FILLS THE STERILE STEEL CORRIDORS OF THE VAST ORBITING SPACE STATION.
COUSIN, IT'S WORKING! THE LEADER'S TIME PLATFORM IS BEGINNING TO GLOW!
CURSES.
CURSE YOUR MALEVOLENT MASTER, COMPUTER! I'D HOPED TO LOCATE ALL THE AVENGERS TOGETHER--
--BUT THE LEADER'S DISPERSED THEM ACROSS VARIOUS AGES OF THE PAST!
WE'LL NEED THEIR POWER FOR THE BATTLE TO COME--
--SO OUR FIRST MISSION, SHE-HULK, MUST BE TO FOLLOW THE AVENGERS!
LEAD THE WAY, COUSIN!
FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE A SUPER-HERO, YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE SO FAR!
THEY STAND UPON THE PLATFORM. IT GLOWS (GREEN, OF COURSE)...
...AND, IN A BURST OF GAMMA BRILLIANCE, THE HULK AND THE SHE-HULK ARE SHOT BACK THROUGH TIME.
THEY'RE GONE. I FAILED TO STOP THEM. BUT PERHAPS I CAN STILL HELP THE MASTER--
--BY INSURING THAT THEY NEVER RETURN AGAIN!
AWFULLY, EERILY, OMNIVAC'S HEAD BEGINS TO MECHANICALLY MANIPULATE HIS LIMBS.
5

THE PLACE: FRANCE. THE TIME: 1944.
SHE-HULK, DO YOU REALIZE WHERE WE ARE?
I RECOGNIZE THE SCENE FROM OLD MOVIES, BRUCE. WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF WORLD WAR II!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE A NAZI PUSH IS JUST GETTING UNDER WAY AGAINST ALLIED LINES!
HOLD THE LINE, BOYS! DON'T GIVE THOSE GOOSESTEPPERS AN INCH!
BRAVE WORDS... BUT WORDS ALONE WON'T DRIVE BACK A NAZI BLITZKRIEG.
6

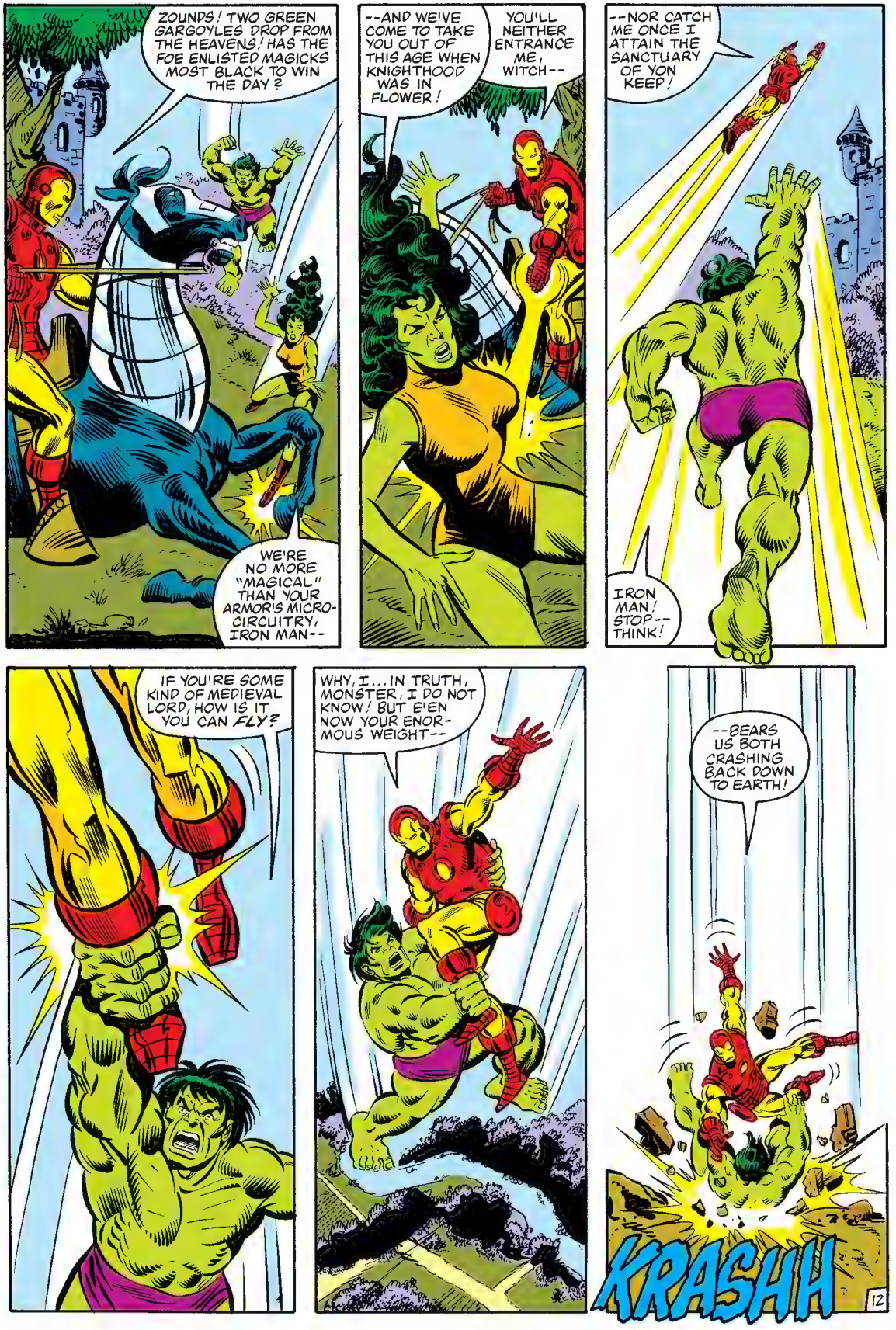
WE CAME TO THIS ERA SEEKING AN AVENGER... AND THERE'S ONLY ONE AVENGER WHO WOULD BE AT HOME IN THIS TIME PERIOD!
THERE HE IS, COUSIN! LEAPING INTO ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY!
AND WITH HIM ... HIS PARTNER, LONG DEAD!
THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATHS GASP -- FOR AWE IS THE ONLY APPROPRIATE REACTION UPON SEEING THE LIVING LEGENDS OF WORLD WAR TWO BURSTING INTO BATTLE!
GO PEDDLE YOUR ARYAN SUPERIORITY ELSEWHERE, HUN!
WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN, CAP!
THEY ARE CAPTAIN AMERICA & BUCKY!
LET'S KEEP THEM RUNNING, LAD, UNTIL ALL EUROPE IS FREE FROM THEIR OPPRESSION!
YOU HEAR ME, NAZI? WE'RE GOING TO DRIVE YOU RIGHT BACK TO BERLIN ITSELF!
LIKE A CERTAIN COMMANDO UNIT WOULD CRY, CAP...
WA-HOOO!*
*GUESS WHICH UNIT --ARCHIVAL AL.
I'D HEARD STORIES ABOUT CAP'S WAR EXPERIENCES WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, BUT TO ACTUALLY SEE HIM IN ACTION...
BUT WHICH CAPTAIN AMERICA ARE WE OBSERVING, SHE-HULK? THE STAR-SPANGLED HERO OF THIS TIME PERIOD--
--OR THE RED-WHITE & BLUE AVENGER OF OUR OWN?
IF EITHER ONE SHOULD DIE HERE--IN BATTLE--WOULD CAPTAIN AMERICA CONTINUE TO EXIST AT ALL?
7
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF SOMEHOW ALTERING HISTORY, COUSIN?
THE LEADER IS TRYING TO ALTER EARTH'S HISTORY FROM THE WORD "GO", JEN!
IF HE SUCCEEDS, NONE OF WHAT WE'RE SEEING WILL EVER COME TO PASS, ANYWAY!
WITH THAT, THEY SPRING FORTH...


...AND THE GERMANS GET A SHOCK FOR WHICH NO ONE OF THIS AGE COULD PREPARE THEM.
PARTY'S OVER, SIEG HEILERS!
CAP, LOOK! THOSE GREEN BEHEMOTHS ON THE BATTLE-FIELD--ARE THEY OURS?
SOME KIND OF ALLIED SECRET WEAPON, YOU MEAN, LAD? NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF!
BUT THEY SEEM STRANGELY FAMILIAR...
YOU HEAR THAT, SHE-HULK? CAP RECOGNIZED US! THE CAPTAIN AMERICA OF THIS TIME WOULDN'T HAVE!
ACH DU LIEBER!
BUT WHY DOES HE SEEM SO UNSURE, BRUCE?
MY THEORY IS THAT, IN DISPATCHING THE AVENGERS INTO THE PAST, THE GAMMA RAYS POWERING THE LEADER'S TIME TRAVEL DEVICE ALSO SUBTLEY ALTERED THEIR THINKING--
--SO THAT THEY FEEL AS IF THEY BELONG IN THE TIME PERIODS IN WHICH THEY FIND THEMSELVES!
WE'RE DEALING WITH A PRESENT DAY CAPTAIN AMERICA WHO THINKS HE'S STILL A LATTER DAY CAPTAIN AMERICA!
AND THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO CONVINCE HIM OTHERWISE IS TO END THIS BATTLE, AND GET HIM OUT OF THIS AGE!
ALL THE AWESOME MIGHT OF GERMAN ARMAMENTS ARE AS PAPIER MACHÉ BEFORE THE PULVERIZING POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
8

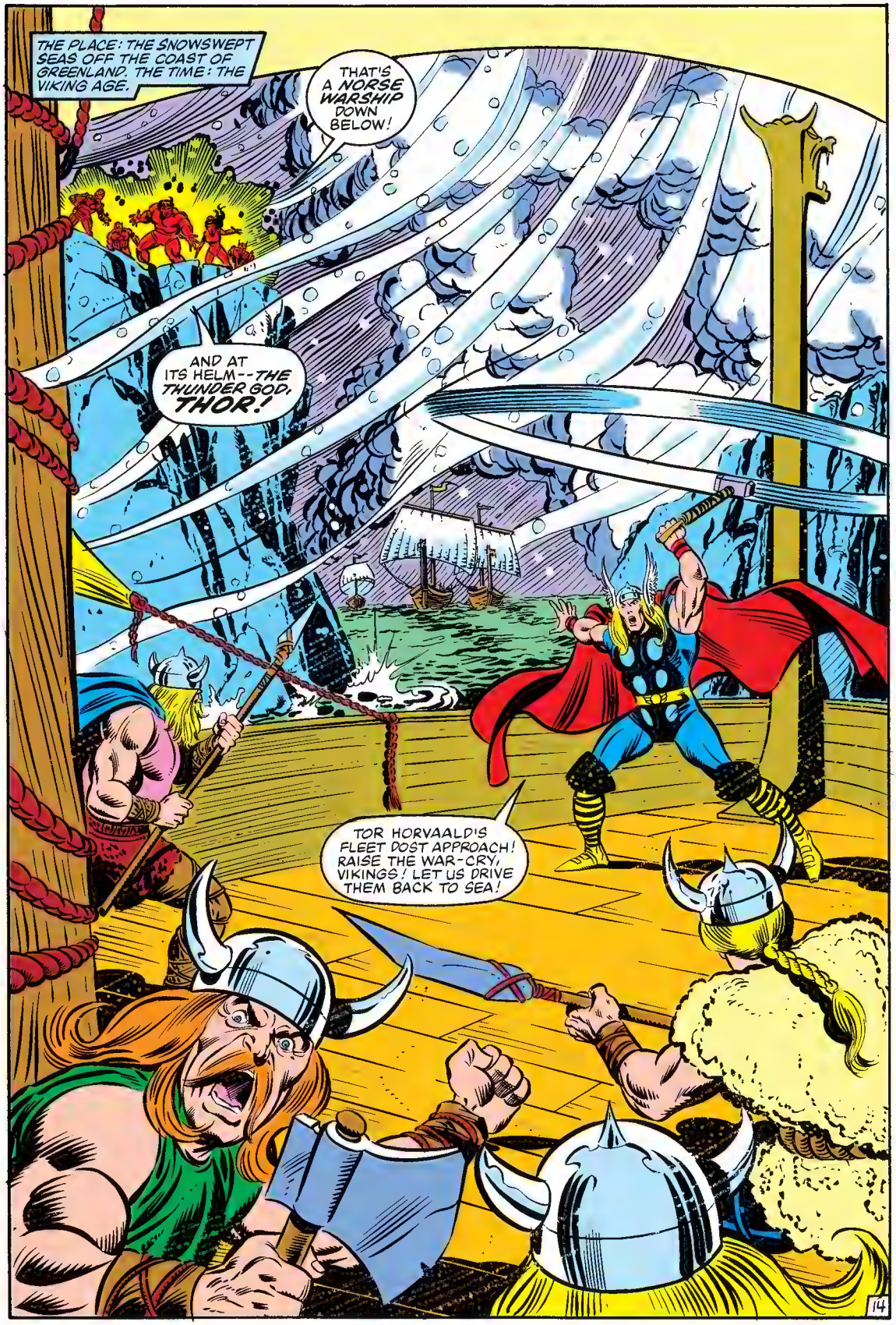
THUS, THE WINNING COMBINATION OF GREEN GLADIATORS, LIVING LEGENDS, AND ALLIED INFANTRY SOON TURNS THE NAZI RUSH TO ROUT.
I DON'T KNOW WHO--OR WHAT--YOU ARE, FRIENDS... BUT THANKS! YOU'VE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES THIS DAY!
AND NOW THAT THE BATTLE'S OVER, CAP--IT'S TIME YOU CAME WITH US!
CAME WITH YOU? WHERE?
TO FOLLOW THE LEADER, CAP! TO HELP FIND YOUR FELLOW AVENGERS!
WHY DO I FEEL I KNOW THOSE NAMES?
IT'S TOO LONG A TALE TO TELL, CAP! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST--
--THAT ONCE WE LEAVE THIS ERA, ALL WILL BECOME CLEAR!
BUT HOW TO LEAVE--THAT'S THE QUESTION.
CAP, LOOK OUT!
THE NAZIS ARE LAUNCHING A BOMBARDMENT TO COVER THEIR RETREAT!
BRAWRROOM
CAP!
AFTER THE THUNDEROUS CONCUSSION AND THE SHRILL SCREAM OF SHRAPNEL, THERE IS A LONG, HORRIBLE MOMENT OF SILENCE. THEN...
CAP? CAP! H-HE'S GONE! KILLED! DEAD!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, SON--TURN THE LIVING LEGEND INTO THE GAUNT GHOST?
CAP! YOU'RE ALIVE! BUT I SAW YOU...!
YOU SAW ME? I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU SINCE WE GOT SEPARATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE!
SEPARATED? THEN WHO...?
ANOTHER OF WAR'S MYSTERIES.
9

THE PLACE: SHERWOOD FOREST, IN MERRIE OLDE ENGLAND. THE TIME: THE 12TH CENTURY.
OF COURSE! WHERE ELSE WOULD WE EXPECT TO FIND OUR ACE ARCHER AND ARMORED AVENGER--
--THAN IN THIS ERA OF KNIGHTS AND YEOMEN!
BUT THEY SEEM ABOUT TO GO INTO BATTLE, BRUCE --ON OPPOSITE SIDES!
HAWKEYE SEES HIMSELF AS A ROBIN HOOD, AND IRON MAN AS SOME SORT OF ARMORED KNIGHT, SHE-HULK! THE TRUTH OF THEIR IDENTITIES IS AS HIDDEN FROM THEM AS MINE WAS FROM ME!
10

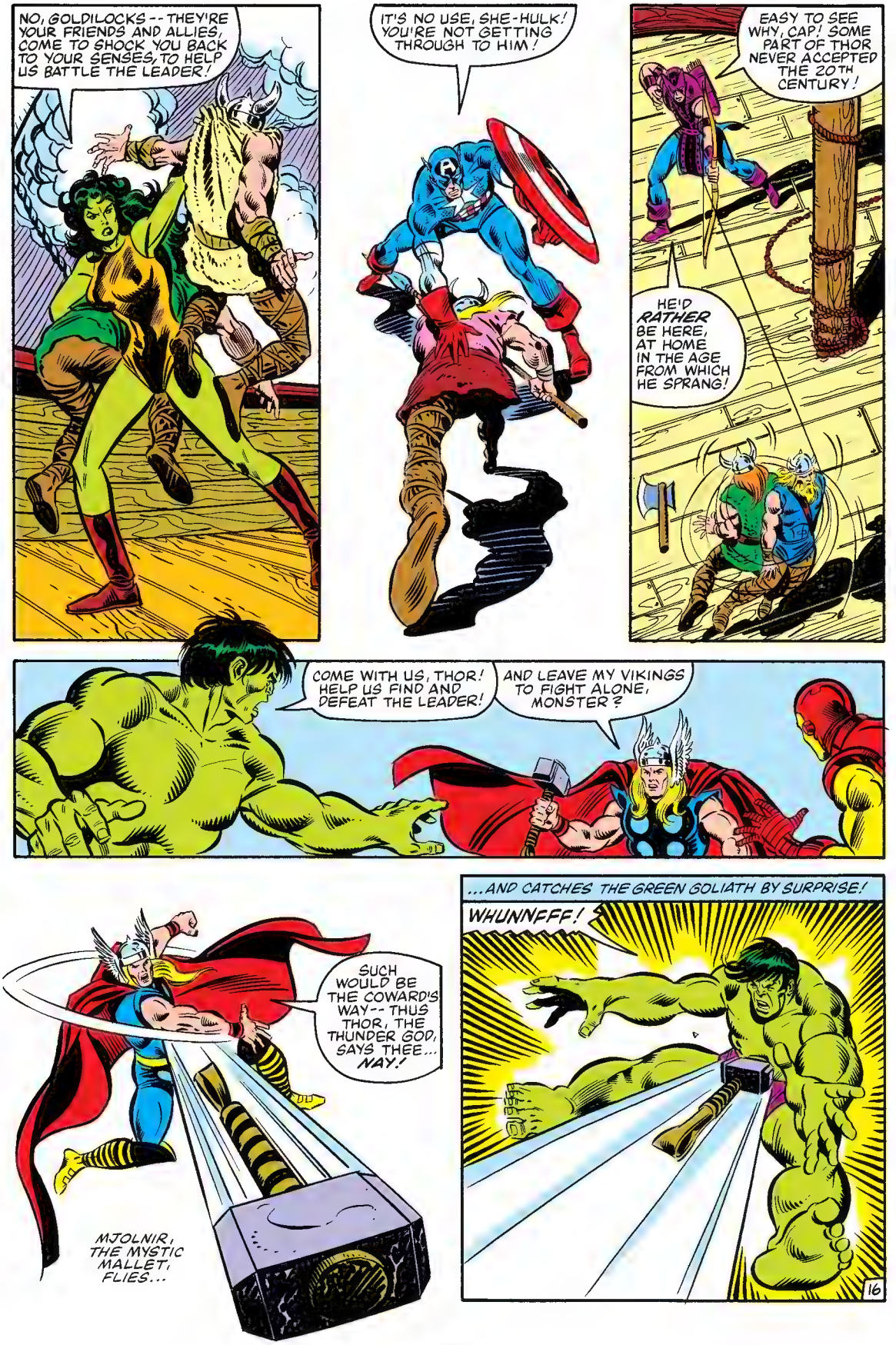
YOU REGAINED YOUR "TIME MEMORY" AS SOON AS WE SLIPPED BACK TO THE NEXT EPOCH FOR WHICH I'D PROGRAMMED THE LEADER'S TIME TRAVEL DEVICE, CAP!
THEN THE SAME THING WOULD PROBABLY HAPPEN TO HAWKEYE AND IRON MAN--
--UNLESS THEY FALL IN THE COMING FIGHT!
ARE YE WITH ME, MEN OF SHERWOOD?
AYE, ROBIN! THOUGH YE'VE SHED THE LINCOLN GREEN FOR THIS BATTLE, THY MERRY MEN WILT FOLLOW THEE ANYWHERE!
AND WILT THOU FOLLOW ME, MY KNIGHTS?
AYE, MILORD, THOUGH YE HAVE CHOSEN TO DON NEW ARMOR OTHER THAN YOUR NORM!
THEN LET 'EM HAVE IT, BOYS!
HAWKEYE HAS NOT BEEN IMMERSED IN HIS ROLE SO LONG THAT HE CAN PREVENT HIMSELF FROM SLIPPING INTO 20TH CENTURY COLLOQUIALISMS.
TAKE IT TO 'EM, LADS!
IRON MAN, IT SEEMS, IS SIMILARLY AFFLICTED.
WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM OUT OF THIS ERA BEFORE THEY --OR THE LEGIONS THEY'RE LEADING-- GET HURT!
BUT MAYBE THIS BATTLE WAS *MEANT* TO BE! SHOULD WE INTERVENE IN HISTORY...
PLEASE, CAP--WE'VE ALREADY GONE 'ROUND ON *THAT* CAROUSEL!

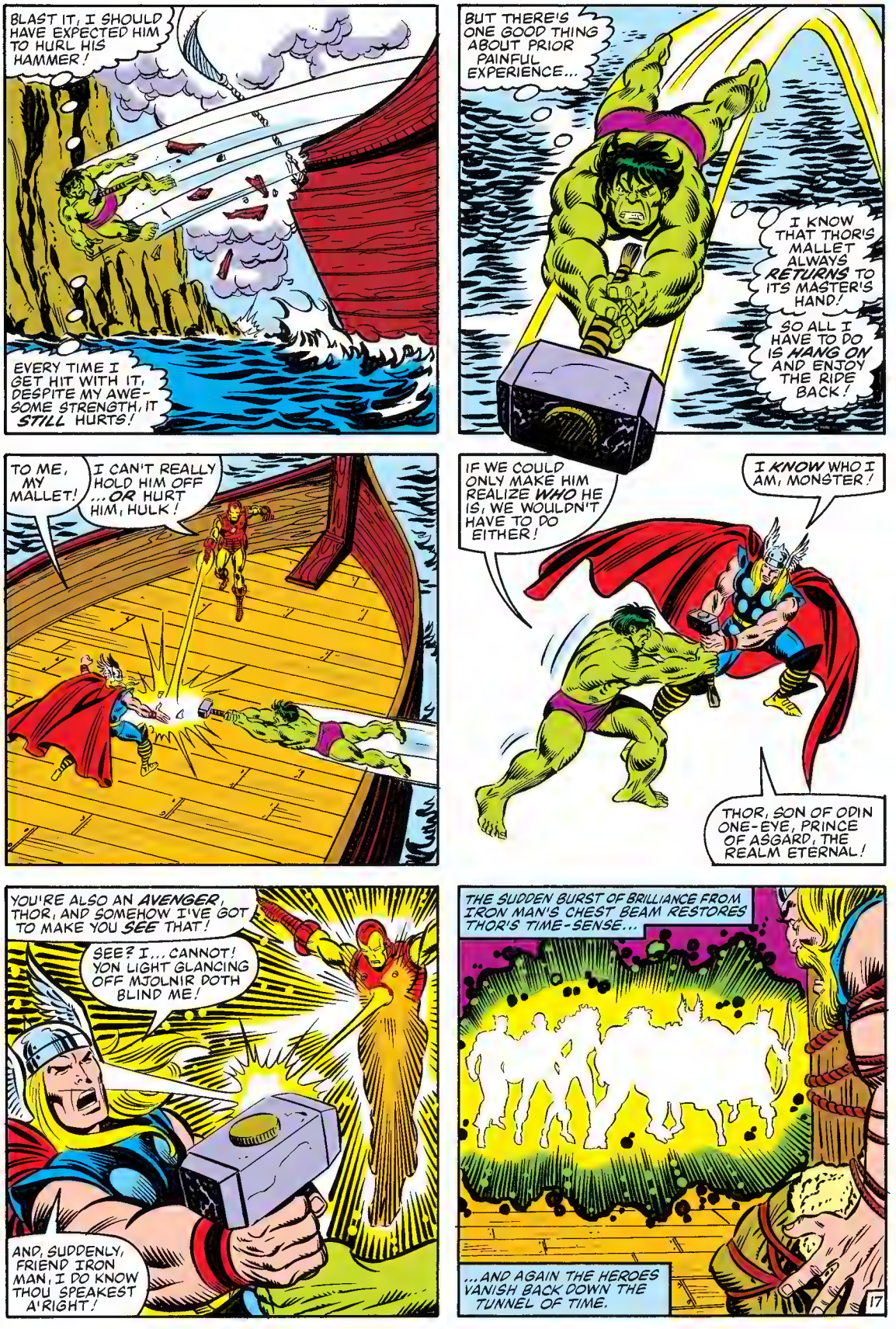

ZOUNDS! TWO GREEN GARGOYLES DROP FROM THE HEAVENS! HAS THE FOE ENLISTED MAGICKS MOST BLACK TO WIN THE DAY?
WE'RE NO MORE "MAGICAL" THAN YOUR ARMOR'S MICRO-CIRCUITRY, IRON MAN--
--AND WE'VE COME TO TAKE YOU OUT OF THIS AGE WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER!
YOU'LL NEITHER ENTRANCE ME, WITCH--
--NOR CATCH ME ONCE I ATTAIN THE SANCTUARY OF YON KEEP!
IRON MAN! STOP-- THINK!
IF YOU'RE SOME KIND OF MEDIEVAL LORD, HOW IS IT YOU CAN FLY?
WHY, I... IN TRUTH, MONSTER, I DO NOT KNOW! BUT E'EN NOW YOUR ENORMOUS WEIGHT--
--BEARS US BOTH CRASHING BACK DOWN TO EARTH!
KRASHH
12

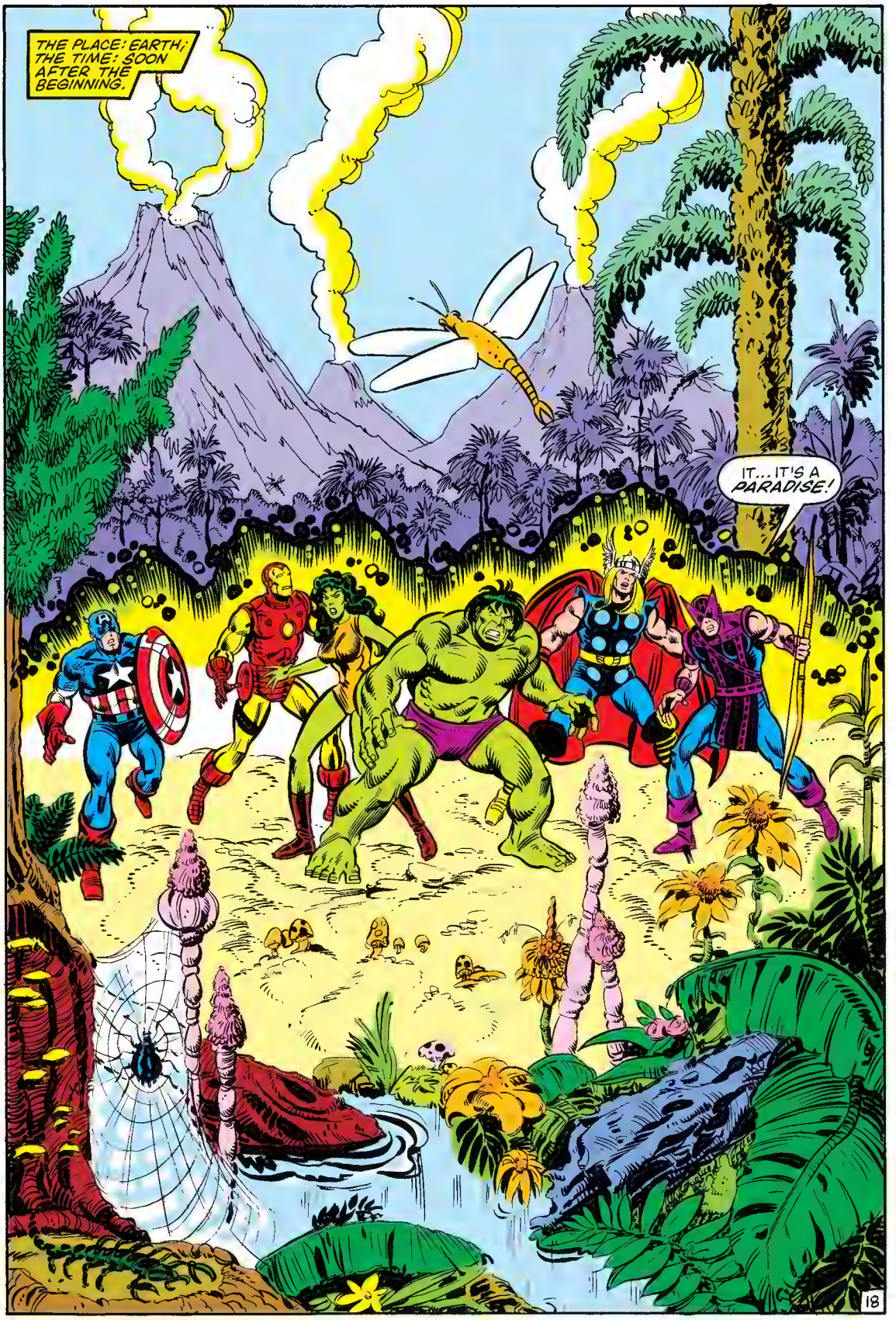
HULK AND SHE-HULK ARE DEALING WITH IRON MAN!
THAT LEAVES ME TO TRY AND CONVINCE HAWKEYE THAT HE'S NOT ROBIN HOOD!
THY BUCKLER DOTH SEEM FAMILIAR, STRANGER--
--BUT THERE BE NO SHIELD FORGED ABLE TO WITHSTAND MY INCREDIBLE ARROWS!
THAT'S RIGHT, HAWKEYE! YOUR ARROWS ARE INCREDIBLE!
TOO INCREDIBLE FOR THIS AGE THAT KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT GUNPOWDER, LET ALONE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES!
WHAT DOST THOU MEAN--?
THAT YOUR OWN ADVANCED WEAPONRY SHOULD CLUE YOU IN TO THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T BELONG HERE, AVENGER!
CAP, THE CLOUDS HAVE CLEARED! IRON MAN'S HIMSELF AGAIN!
HOW'S HAWKEYE?
EAGER TO FOLLOW THE LEADER, SHELLHEAD!
THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, AVENGER?
HEY! WE'RE VANISHING!
FURTHER BACK IN TIME!
AND JUST AS THE REAL ROBIN HOOD CUTS DOWN THE REAL BLACK DUKE!
WHERE TO NOW?
13


THE PLACE: THE SNOWSWEPT SEAS OFF THE COAST OF GREENLAND. THE TIME: THE VIKING AGE.
THAT'S A NORSE WARSHIP DOWN BELOW!
AND AT ITS HELM--THE THUNDER GOD, THOR!
TOR HORVAALD'S FLEET DOST APPROACH! RAISE THE WAR-CRY, VIKINGS! LET US DRIVE THEM BACK TO SEA!
14

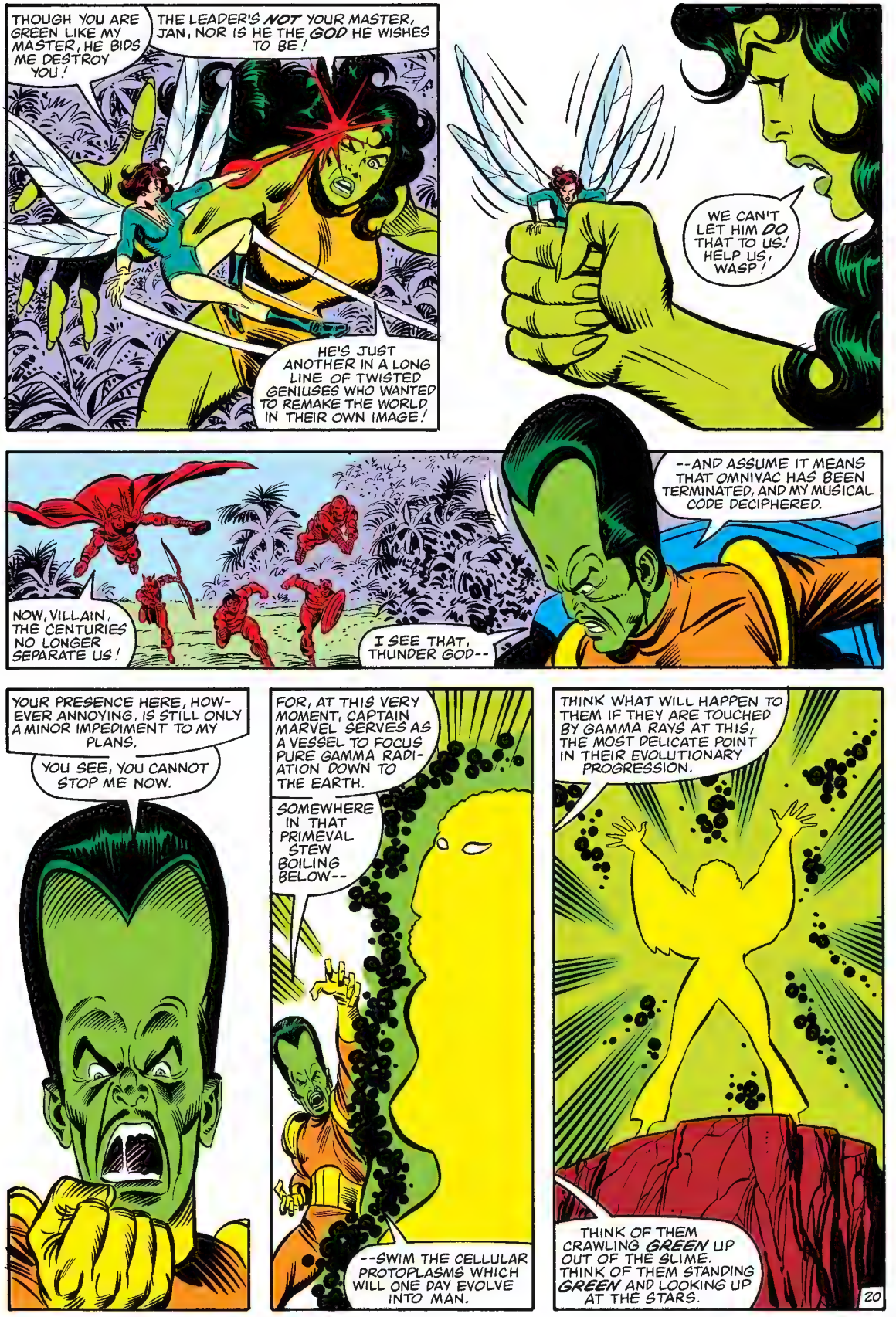
THOR'S RIGHT AT HOME IN THIS ERA, HULK!
HE SHOULD BE... IT'S THE AGE THAT CREATED HIM, OR VICE VERSA.
LOOK AT HIM! HE'S LIKE SOME ANCIENT GOD OF WAR, REVELLING!
WELL, CAP, THAT'S WHAT THOR IS, ISN'T HE?
YES! THOUGH HIS EXISTENCE IN OUR MODERN AGE MAY SOMETIMES CAUSE US TO FORGET...
...THOR IS A GOD OF BATTLE, BORN OF AN AGE FAR MORE BARBARIC THAN OUR OWN!
WHAT DO WE DO? SAVE THOR--OR SAVE HIS ENEMIES FROM HIM?
WE TRY TO STOP THEIR FIGHT, HAWKEYE!
YOU GOT IT, SHELLHEAD!
WE'LL NEED THOR'S POWER TO DEAL WITH THE LEADER WHEN WE FIND HIM!
FROM OUT OF THE SKY--COMES A MONSTER AS UGLY AS ANY EVER SPAWNED IN TROLL HOLES DEEP!
I ASK YOU, ASGARDIAN, IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK ABOUT A ONCE AND FUTURE AVENGER?
NOW THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGANTUA IS JOINED BY ANOTHER WHOSE ARMOR GLEAMS LIKE THE SUN!
ART THOU DEMONS CONJURED FORTH BY THE MISCHIEVOUS MAGIC OF MY HALF-BROTHER, LOKI?
15


NO, GOLDILOCKS -- THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES, COME TO SHOCK YOU BACK TO YOUR SENSES, TO HELP US BATTLE THE LEADER!
IT'S NO USE, SHE-HULK! YOU'RE NOT GETTING THROUGH TO HIM!
EASY TO SEE WHY, CAP! SOME PART OF THOR NEVER ACCEPTED THE 20TH CENTURY!
HE'D RATHER BE HERE, AT HOME IN THE AGE FROM WHICH HE SPRANG!
COME WITH US, THOR! HELP US FIND AND DEFEAT THE LEADER!
AND LEAVE MY VIKINGS TO FIGHT ALONE, MONSTER?
SUCH WOULD BE THE COWARD'S WAY -- THUS THOR, THE THUNDER GOD, SAYS THEE... NAY!
MJOLNIR, THE MYSTIC MALLET, FLIES...
...AND CATCHES THE GREEN GOLIATH BY SURPRISE!
WHUNNFFF!
16


BLAST IT, I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED HIM TO HURL HIS HAMMER!
EVERY TIME I GET HIT WITH IT, DESPITE MY AWE-SOME STRENGTH, IT STILL HURTS!
BUT THERE'S ONE GOOD THING ABOUT PRIOR PAINFUL EXPERIENCE...
I KNOW THAT THOR'S MALLET ALWAYS RETURNS TO ITS MASTER'S HAND!
SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HANG ON AND ENJOY THE RIDE BACK!
TO ME, MY MALLET!
I CAN'T REALLY HOLD HIM OFF ...OR HURT HIM, HULK!
IF WE COULD ONLY MAKE HIM REALIZE WHO HE IS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO EITHER!
I KNOW WHO I AM, MONSTER!
THOR, SON OF ODIN ONE-EYE, PRINCE OF ASGARD, THE REALM ETERNAL!
YOU'RE ALSO AN AVENGER, THOR, AND SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO MAKE YOU SEE THAT!
SEE? I... CANNOT! YON LIGHT GLANCING OFF MJOLNIR DOTH BLIND ME!
AND, SUDDENLY, FRIEND IRON MAN, I DO KNOW THOU SPEAKEST A'RIGHT!
THE SUDDEN BURST OF BRILLIANCE FROM IRON MAN'S CHEST BEAM RESTORES THOR'S TIME-SENSE...
...AND AGAIN THE HEROES VANISH BACK DOWN THE TUNNEL OF TIME.
17


THE PLACE: EARTH; THE TIME: SOON AFTER THE BEGINNING.
IT... IT'S A PARADISE!
18

ONE THE LEADER PLANS TO TURN INTO A PURGATORY, HAWKEYE, BY USING GAMMA RAYS TO ALTER MANKIND'S EVOLUTION.
HE INTENDS TO RE-EVOLVE OUR RACE INTO ONE TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT TO HIM!
LOOK, ON THE RIDGE OF THAT VOLCANO-- THERE HE IS!
AND WITH HIM, OUR FELLOW AVENGERS, CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE WONDROUS WASP!
THE GAMMA RAYS HAVE ALREADY AFFECTED THEM!
THEY'RE ENTRANCED, TOO!
WORSE, THE LEADER'S USING CAPTAIN MARVEL'S ABILITY TO BECOME ENERGY, TO FOCUS THE GAMMA RAYS BOMBARDING EARTH!
BY CHANGING THE RADIATION BALANCE HERE, AT EARTH'S INCEPTION--
--THE LEADER MAY WELL ALTER EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY!
STOP TALKING ABOUT IT! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THE LEADER'S ALREADY USED GAMMA RADIATION TO ALTER THE WASP!
SHE-HULK LEAPS-- PULSE POUNDING, MUSCLES FLEXING, TO HER SISTER-AVENGER'S AID.
THE OTHERS ARE NOT FAR BEHIND.
STEER CLEAR OF THE GAMMA RAYS CAPTAIN MARVEL IS TRANSMITTING, AVENGERS--
--UNLESS YOU THINK YOU'D LIKE BEING GREEN!
19


THOUGH YOU ARE GREEN LIKE MY MASTER, HE BIDS ME DESTROY YOU!
THE LEADER'S NOT YOUR MASTER, JAN, NOR IS HE THE GOD HE WISHES TO BE!
HE'S JUST ANOTHER IN A LONG LINE OF TWISTED GENIUSES WHO WANTED TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN THEIR OWN IMAGE!
WE CAN'T LET HIM DO THAT TO US! HELP US, WASP!
NOW, VILLAIN, THE CENTURIES NO LONGER SEPARATE US!
I SEE THAT, THUNDER GOD--
--AND ASSUME IT MEANS THAT OMNIVAC HAS BEEN TERMINATED, AND MY MUSICAL CODE DECIPHERED.
YOUR PRESENCE HERE, HOWEVER ANNOYING, IS STILL ONLY A MINOR IMPEDIMENT TO MY PLANS.
YOU SEE, YOU CANNOT STOP ME NOW.
FOR, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, CAPTAIN MARVEL SERVES AS A VESSEL TO FOCUS PURE GAMMA RADIATION DOWN TO THE EARTH.
SOMEWHERE IN THAT PRIMEVAL STEW BOILING BELOW--
--SWIM THE CELLULAR PROTOPLASMS WHICH WILL ONE DAY EVOLVE INTO MAN.
THINK WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM IF THEY ARE TOUCHED BY GAMMA RAYS AT THIS, THE MOST DELICATE POINT IN THEIR EVOLUTIONARY PROGRESSION.
THINK OF THEM CRAWLING GREEN UP OUT OF THE SLIME. THINK OF THEM STANDING GREEN AND LOOKING UP AT THE STARS.
20

THINK OF THEM WORSHIPPING ME AS THE DEITY WHO CREATED THEM!
AVENGERS, IF EVER WE'RE TO STOP THE LEADER, IT MUST BE NOW, BEFORE HIS MAD PLAN SUCCEEDS IN ALTERING MANKIND'S EVOLUTION FOREVERMORE!
WE STAND WITH THEE IN THIS MISSION, HULK!
YOU ABSORB THE GAMMA RAYS-- WE'LL DEAL WITH THE LEADER!
BUT WON'T GAMMA RAYS HURT THE HULK, CAP?
PERHAPS NOT, HAWKEYE. HE'S BEEN EXPOSED TO GAMMA RADIATION BEFORE WITH NON-FATAL RESULTS.
BUT IF WE WERE EXPOSED TO IT WE COULD BE KILLED... OR HORRIBLY MUTATED!
LIKE THE HULK OR MYSELF? IS THAT THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU RAISE ARMS AGAINST?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH POSSESSING POWER-- INTELLECT?
WHAT'S SO WRONG IN BEING LIKE MEEE
21

EASY, CAPTAIN MARVEL--I'VE GOT YOU! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW!
AND...THE LEADER?
IRON MAN?
HE'S FALLING FAST, HULK!
TOO FAST!
FWROOSH
COULD I HAVE FLOWN FASTER AND SAVED HIM? DID I WANT TO?
ISN'T THE WORLD BETTER OFF WITHOUT HAVING THE LETHAL LEADER ALIVE TO THREATEN IT?
I'D SAY SO...
...BUT FOR MY OWN CONSCIENCE'S SAKE I'LL ALWAYS HOPE THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD HAVE REACHED HIM IN TIME!
SO THAT'S THE END OF THE LEADER!
THE FUTURE OF MANKIND IS ASSURED. AND CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE WASP ARE BACK TO NORMAL.
THAT ONLY LEAVES ONE MINOR PROBLEM.
WHAT'S THAT, SHE-HULK?
HOW IN BLAZES ARE WE GOING TO GET HOME?!
EASY, COUSIN--THE SONG I PROGRAMMED INTO THE LEADER'S TIME TRAVEL ACTIVATOR IS OVER!
22

THE PLACE: THE LEADER'S ORBITING SPACE STATION.
THE TIME: NOW.
WE'RE BACK!
YOU ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT, HEROES!
THE ROBOT WHO BEAT UP ON ME AT THE LEADER'S COMMAND WAS TRYING TO FIX THINGS SO THAT YOU STAYED LOST IN TIME.
I SAW TO IT THAT HE CHANGED HIS TUNE!
YOU HAVE OUR THANKS, JACKDAW, AND YOU'VE PAID FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE LEADER IN THE INJURIES YOU'VE SUSTAINED.
BUT NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MY FELLOW AVENGERS HAVE ASKED ME TO DO...
...AND THAT, DR. BANNER, IS TO ONCE AGAIN--AFTER TOO LONG A TIME--OFFER THE INCREDIBLE HULK A PLACE IN THE RANKS OF THE AVENGERS!
BUT, I--!
23
NEXT MONTH: WILL HE, OR WON'T HE?

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Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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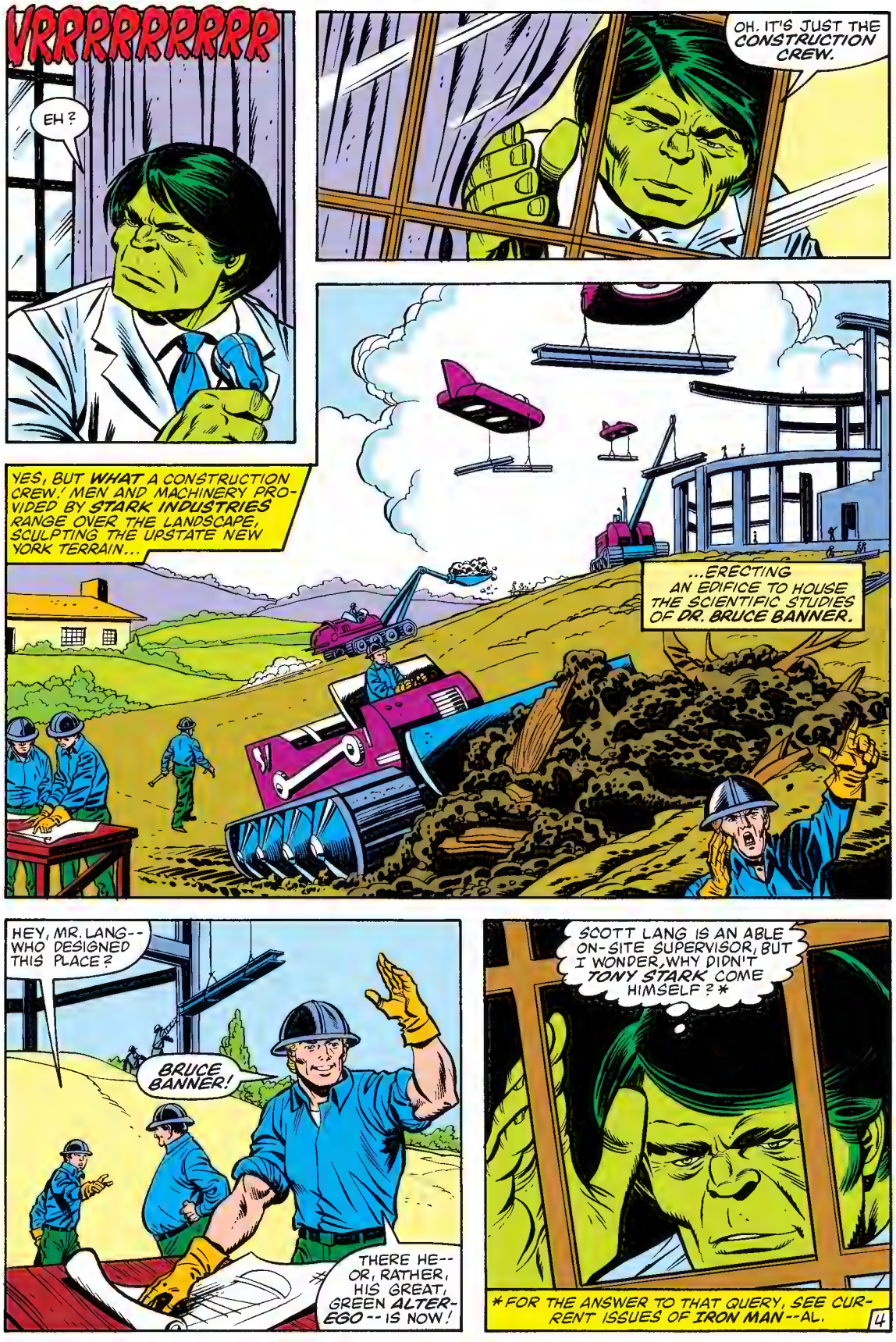
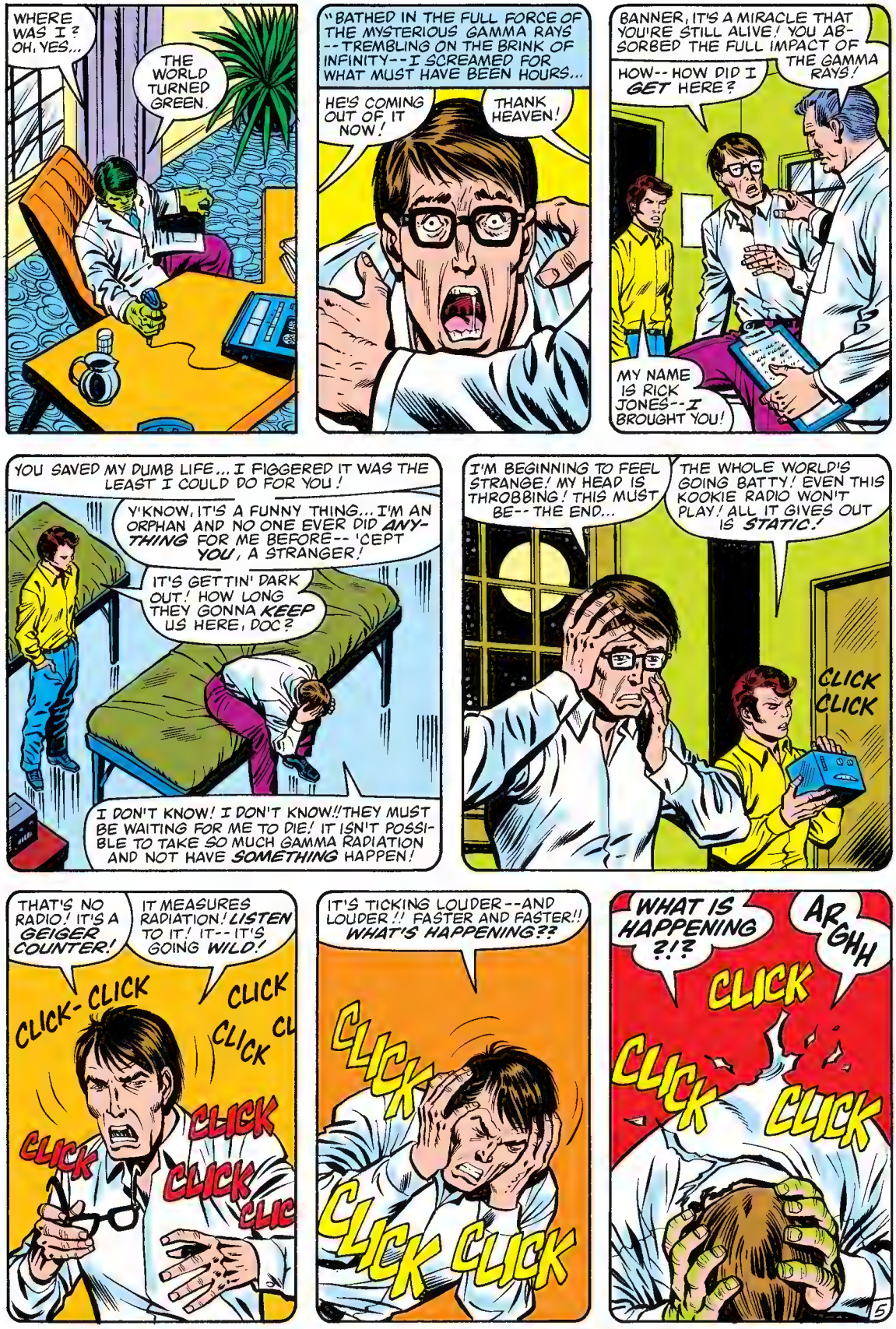
AS I SIT HERE DICTATING MY MEMOIRS, I AM KEENLY AWARE--
DUE TO THE ENORMOUS CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED FOR BOTH BRUCE BANNER AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK--THAT...
TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE!
THE SOPHISTICATED DICTAPHONE SPINS SILENTLY FORWARD...

...AS THE THOUGHTS OF THE JADE GREEN NARRATOR SLIP EVER FURTHER BACK INTO THE PAST.
BRUCE BANNER WAS A YOUNG MAN... BUT ALREADY THE NATION'S FOREMOST PHYSICIST.
HIS RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECTS OF GAMMA RAYS--
"--MADE IT INEVITABLE THAT THE PACIFISTIC PHYSICIST WOULD WIND UP WORKING FOR THE MILITARY."
THE GAMMA BOMB IS THE MOST ADVANCED WEAPON THIS COUNTRY EVER POSSESSED!
THUNDERATION! TO THINK THAT WE OWE ITS DEVELOPMENT TO A MILKSOP LIKE BRUCE BANNER!
OH, DADDY, DON'T BE SO UNFAIR! DR. BANNER IS ONE OF OUR MOST FAMOUS SCIENTISTS! I'M SURE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
THANKS FOR DEFENDING ME, MISS ROSS.
BAH! I STILL SAY BANNER HAS NO GUTS!
THEY SHOULD HAVE PUT ME IN CHARGE OF THIS TEST, AND NOT SOME CIVILIAN!
I WISH THEY HAD, GENERAL ROSS. PERHAPS THEN, ALL THAT HAPPENED TO ME AS A RESULT OF THAT TEST MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED!
PERHAPS THEN I MIGHT NEVER HAVE LOST YOUR DAUGHTER, BETTY.
PERHAPS THEN BRUCE BANNER MIGHT HAVE BEEN SPARED THE HORROR OF BECOMING THE HULK!
BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF...
"THE GAMMA--OR G-BOMB--WAS THE MOST AWESOME WEAPON EVER CREATED BY MAN.
"I WAS ITS INVENTOR.
"WHY DID I INVENT IT? OH, SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY... A MEANS OF UNLEASHING THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF THE UNIVERSE...
"BOREDOM.
"SOME REASON FOR TOYING WITH DESTRUCTION, EH?
2

"I RATIONALIZED CREATING THE BOMB WITH ARGUMENTS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS, BUT PERHAPS THE TRUTH IS THAT I HAD GONE SO FAR BEYOND MY PEERS THAT MY WORK LACKED EXCITEMENT.
"WAS I LOOKING FOR SOME SORT OF CEREBRAL KICK?
"IF SO, I GOT IT--BUT NOT IN THE WAY I EXPECTED.
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?! GOOD LORD! IT'S A BOY--A TEENAGER! HE'S DRIVING INTO THE TEST AREA!
IGOR! DELAY THE COUNTDOWN UNTIL I CAN GET TO THAT BOY! HURRY, MAN! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
SURE...
"IGOR WAS A MEDIOCRE RESEARCH ASSISTANT... AND AN EQUALLY MEDIOCRE SOVIET SPY! MY LIFE WAS IN HIS HANDS.
YOU! GET OUT OF THERE! YOU'RE IN A FORBIDDEN TEST AREA!
COOL IT, MAN! THE KIDS BET ME I WOULDN'T HAVE NERVE ENOUGH TO SNEAK PAST THE GUARDS...
HEY! WHAT ARE YA TRYIN' TO DO? MAKE THEM THINK I'M CHICKEN?
COME ON, YOU FOOL! WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE PROTECTIVE TRENCH BEFORE THE BOMB GOES OFF!
BOMB?!
"BOMB.
THREE
TWO
ONE
ZERO
FIRE
THERE! YOU'RE SAFE!
AND NOW I'LL--
AHHHH!
"THE WORLD TURNED GREEN.
3


VRRRRRRRRR
EH?
OH. IT'S JUST THE CONSTRUCTION CREW.
YES, BUT WHAT A CONSTRUCTION CREW! MEN AND MACHINERY PROVIDED BY STARK INDUSTRIES RANGE OVER THE LANDSCAPE, SCULPTING THE UPSTATE NEW YORK TERRAIN...
...ERECTING AN EDIFICE TO HOUSE THE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF DR. BRUCE BANNER.
HEY, MR. LANG--WHO DESIGNED THIS PLACE?
BRUCE BANNER!
THERE HE--OR, RATHER, HIS GREAT, GREEN ALTER-EGO--IS NOW!
SCOTT LANG IS AN ABLE ON-SITE SUPERVISOR, BUT I WONDER, WHY DIDN'T TONY STARK COME HIMSELF?*
*FOR THE ANSWER TO THAT QUERY, SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF IRON MAN--AL.
4


WHERE WAS I? OH, YES...
THE WORLD TURNED GREEN.
"BATHED IN THE FULL FORCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS -- TREMBLING ON THE BRINK OF INFINITY -- I SCREAMED FOR WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN HOURS...
HE'S COMING OUT OF IT NOW!
THANK HEAVEN!
BANNER, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! YOU ABSORBED THE FULL IMPACT OF THE GAMMA RAYS!
HOW-- HOW DID I GET HERE?
MY NAME IS RICK JONES--I BROUGHT YOU!
YOU SAVED MY DUMB LIFE... I FIGGERED IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO FOR YOU!
Y'KNOW, IT'S A FUNNY THING... I'M AN ORPHAN AND NO ONE EVER DID ANYTHING FOR ME BEFORE-- 'CEPT YOU, A STRANGER!
IT'S GETTIN' DARK OUT! HOW LONG THEY GONNA KEEP US HERE, DOC?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!! THEY MUST BE WAITING FOR ME TO DIE! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO TAKE SO MUCH GAMMA RADIATION AND NOT HAVE SOMETHING HAPPEN!
I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL STRANGE! MY HEAD IS THROBBING! THIS MUST BE-- THE END...
THE WHOLE WORLD'S GOING BATTY! EVEN THIS KOOKIE RADIO WON'T PLAY! ALL IT GIVES OUT IS STATIC!
CLICK CLICK
THAT'S NO RADIO! IT'S A GEIGER COUNTER!
IT MEASURES RADIATION! LISTEN TO IT! IT-- IT'S GOING WILD!
CLICK- CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
IT'S TICKING LOUDER -- AND LOUDER!! FASTER AND FASTER!! WHAT'S HAPPENING??
CLICK
CLICK CLICK
WHAT IS HAPPENING ?!?
ARGHH
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
5

H-HEY, DOC! YOU-- CHANGED!!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, INSECT!!!
"THAT WAS THE BEGINNING.
6

"THE BEGINNING OF THE END. ***THE INCREDIBLE HULK***--AS I SOON CAME TO BE CALLED--WAS THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. AS SUCH, I WAS AN ASSET TO THE ORIGINAL ***AVENGERS...***

"BUT THE HULK'S GROWING ***SAVAGERY*** SOON MADE ALLIES INTO ENEMIES, AND MY COURSE WAS SET.

"MY FORMER TEAMMATES SOUGHT TO ***STEM*** IT, FOR THE SAKE OF MANKIND.

"SOME SOUGHT TO ***USE*** MY SAVAGERY TO ADVANCE THEIR OWN GOALS--

-- LIKE THE GAMMA-IRRADIATED GENIUS KNOWN AS THE ***LEADER***--WHO SOUGHT TO TURN IT TO ***EVIL!***

"IT TOOK MY TRIUMPH OVER THE ***U-FOES*** TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT THE HULK WAS ***NOT*** A MENACE ANYMORE!

AMNESTY

"A ***FULL PARDON*** WAS SOON FORTH-COMING.

"THE MAN WAS NO LONGER ***IMPRISONED*** INSIDE THE MONSTER. BRUCE BANNER WAS ***FREE!***"

"THE SAVAGERY GREW. TO THE WORLD AT LARGE I WAS A ***MONSTER***--HATED, HOUNDED, HUNTED.

"TO THE WOMAN I ***LOVED***--BETTY ROSS--I WAS ALSO A MONSTER...TO BE PITIED AND PRAYED FOR.

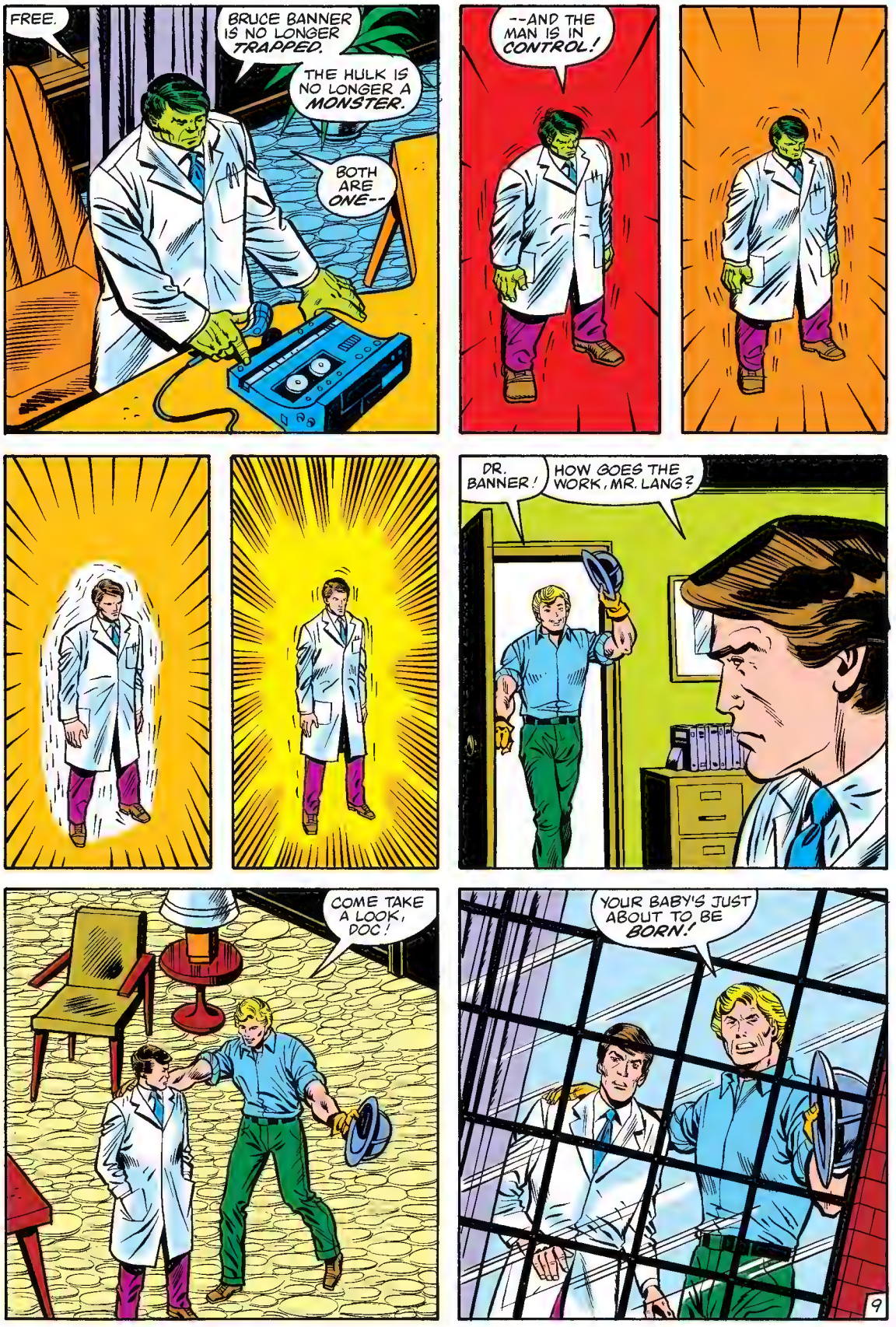
"EVEN TO THE ***MONSTERS*** I FOUGHT--LIKE THE ABOMINATION--I WAS A MONSTER...TO BE POUNDED AND PULVERIZED TO PROVE THEIR SUPERIORITY.

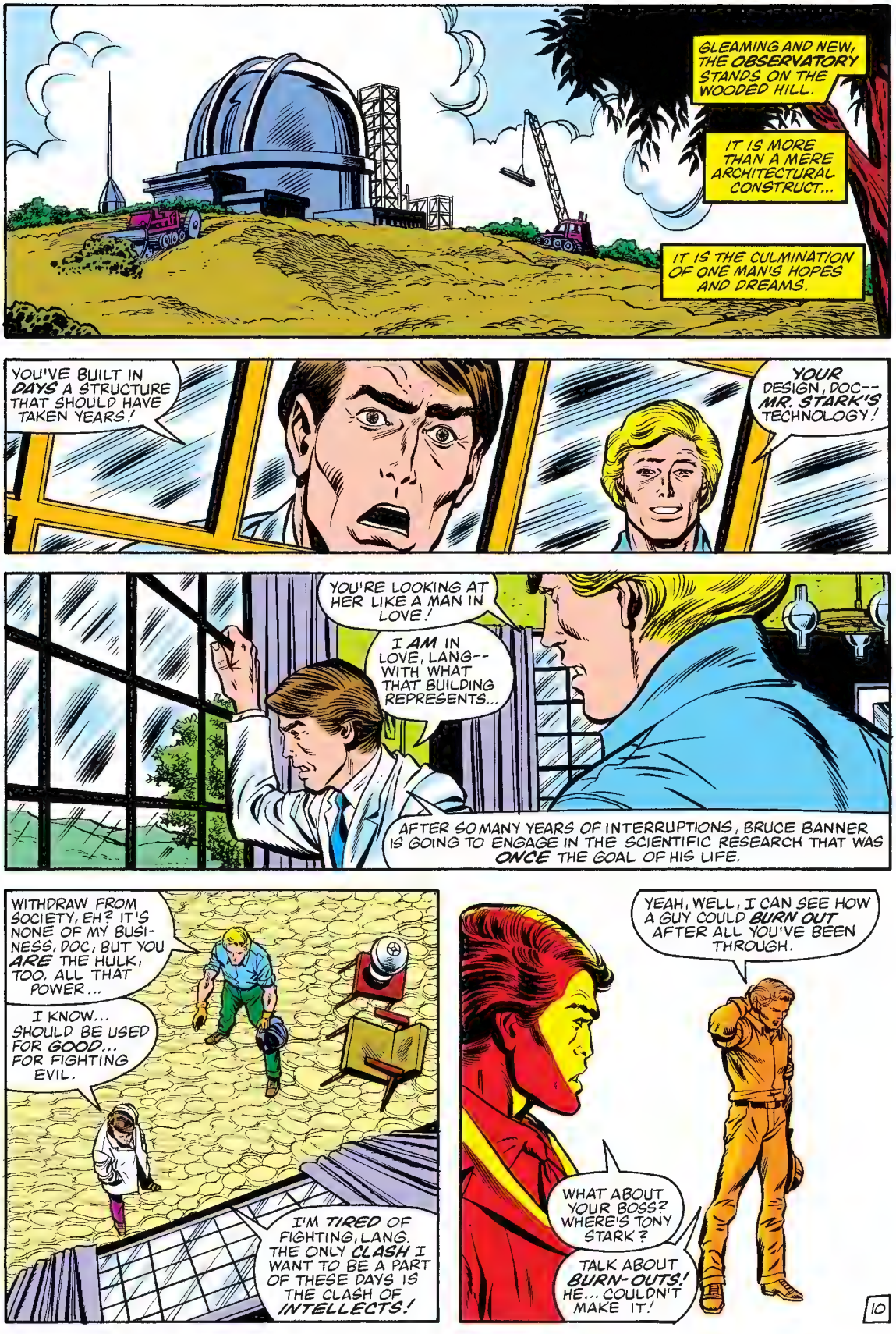
"THEN, RECENTLY, THE SAVAGERY WAS ***GONE***--REPLACED BY THE INTELLECT OF BRUCE BANNER! BUT EVEN ***THEN***, I WAS HOUNDED!

"THERE WERE SOME--LIKE MEMBERS OF THE NON-TEAM TO WHICH I BELONGED, THE ***DEFENDERS***--WHO UNDERSTOOD THE HULK, WHO WORKED WITH HIM AS YOU MIGHT WORK WITH A DANGEROUS CHILD, ALWAYS KEEPING HIS SAVAGERY IN CHECK.

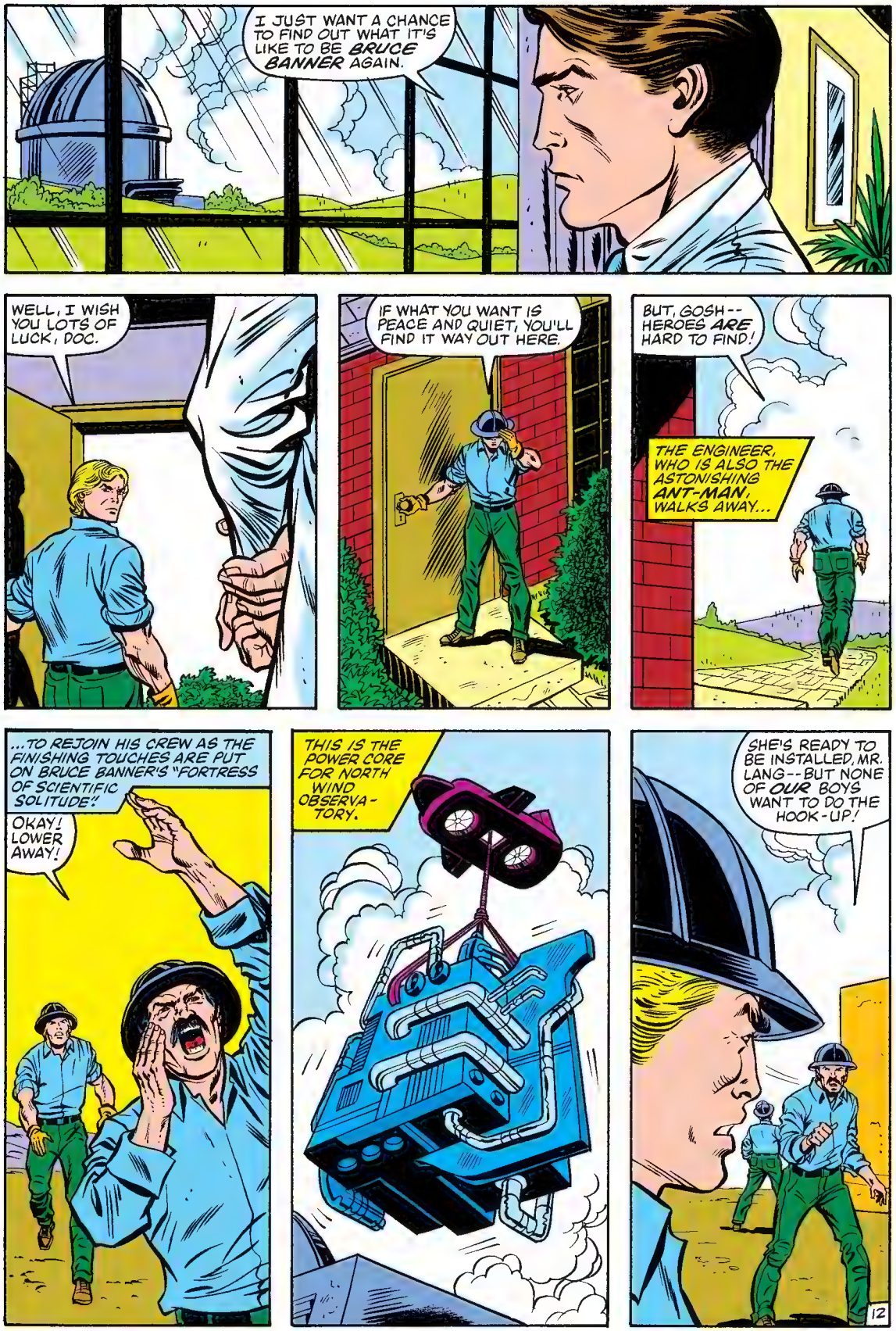
"IN TIME, GAMMA RAY SPAWNED ***HEROES*** LIKE DOC SAMSON SOUGHT TO BRING ME TO BAY.

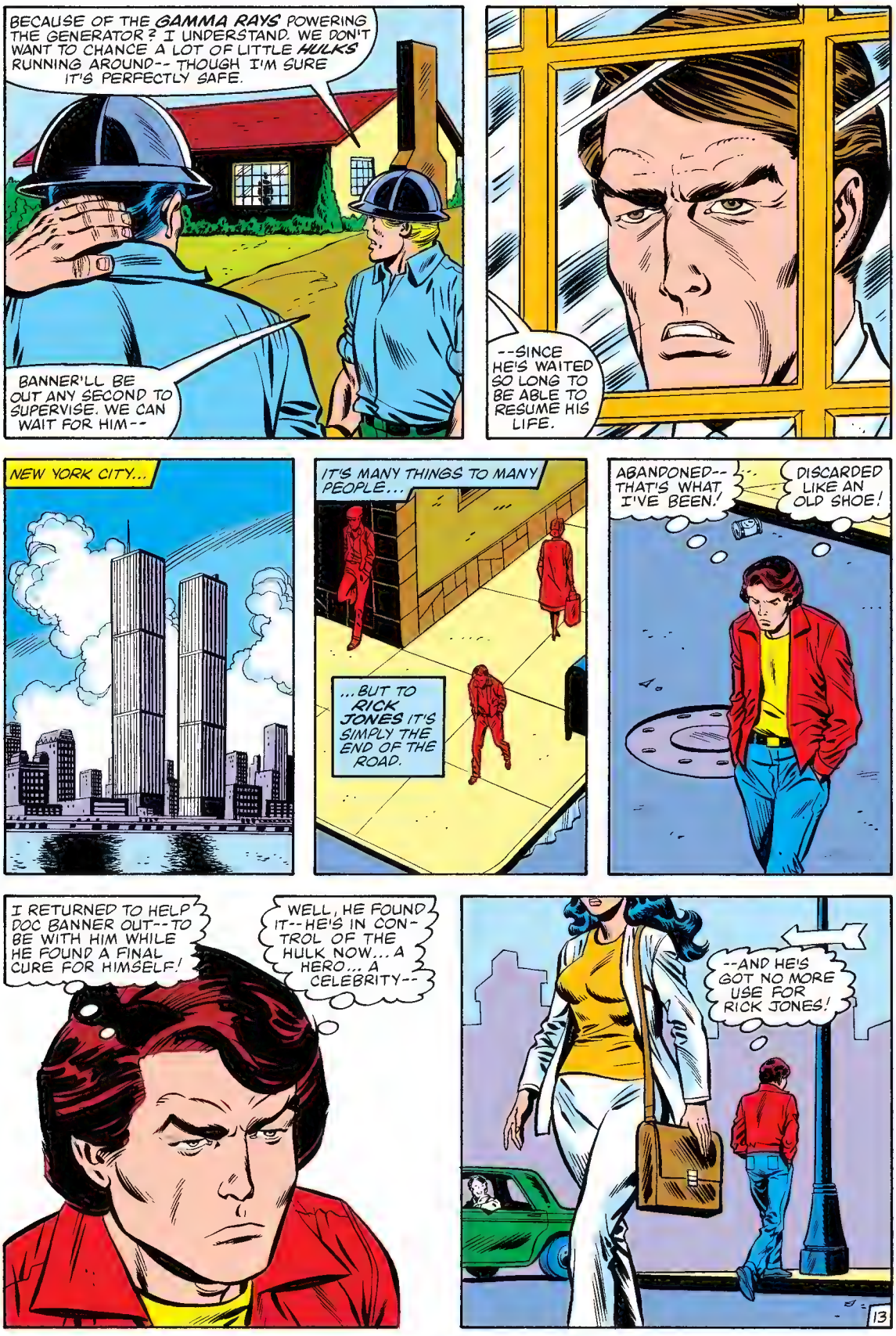
"IN TIME, RICK JONES ABANDONED ME TO BECOME ***CAPTAIN AMERICA'S*** PARTNER.


FREE.
BRUCE BANNER IS NO LONGER TRAPPED.
THE HULK IS NO LONGER A MONSTER.
BOTH ARE ONE--
--AND THE MAN IS IN CONTROL!
DR. BANNER!
HOW GOES THE WORK, MR. LANG?
COME TAKE A LOOK, DOC!
YOUR BABY'S JUST ABOUT TO BE BORN!
9

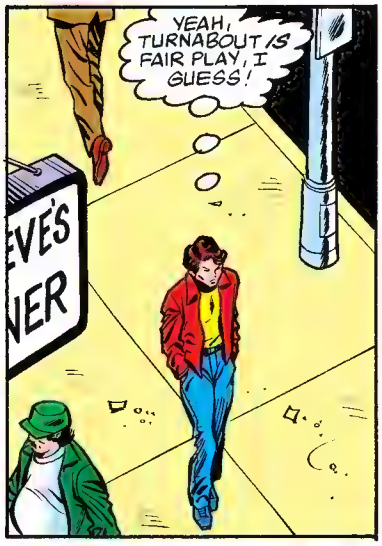

GLEAMING AND NEW, THE OBSERVATORY STANDS ON THE WOODED HILL.
IT IS MORE THAN A MERE ARCHITECTURAL CONSTRUCT...
IT IS THE CULMINATION OF ONE MAN'S HOPES AND DREAMS.
YOU'VE BUILT IN DAYS A STRUCTURE THAT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YEARS!
YOUR DESIGN, DOC-- MR. STARK'S TECHNOLOGY!
YOU'RE LOOKING AT HER LIKE A MAN IN LOVE!
I AM IN LOVE, LANG-- WITH WHAT THAT BUILDING REPRESENTS...
AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF INTERRUPTIONS, BRUCE BANNER IS GOING TO ENGAGE IN THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT WAS ONCE THE GOAL OF HIS LIFE.
WITHDRAW FROM SOCIETY, EH? IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, DOC, BUT YOU ARE THE HULK, TOO. ALL THAT POWER...
I KNOW... SHOULD BE USED FOR GOOD... FOR FIGHTING EVIL.
I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING, LANG. THE ONLY CLASH I WANT TO BE A PART OF THESE DAYS IS THE CLASH OF INTELLECTS!
YEAH, WELL, I CAN SEE HOW A GUY COULD BURN OUT AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOSS? WHERE'S TONY STARK?
TALK ABOUT BURN-OUTS! HE... COULDN'T MAKE IT!
10

HE'S GOT... PROBLEMS ... THESE DAYS.
BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE WORKED ALL OF YOURS OUT.
YET, I HEARD THAT YOU TURNED DOWN MEMBERSHIP IN THE AVENGERS?
"I WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO JOIN THAT GROUP OF HEROES! IS IT REALLY TRUE?"
YES, SCOTT... IT'S TRUE.
I'M NOT A HERO, JUST BECAUSE I POSSESS ENORMOUS POWER.
I'M A SCIENTIST! A THINKER!
I DEMAND THE RIGHT TO RESUME THE DIRECTION MY LIFE WAS TAKING BEFORE...
BEFORE I WAS TURNED INTO THE INCREDIBLE HULK.
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, LANG? I'M NOT DISAVOWING THE HULK. I CAN'T DO THAT!

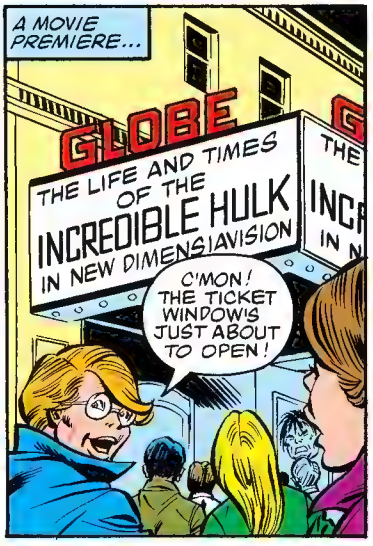

I JUST WANT A CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE BRUCE BANNER AGAIN.
WELL, I WISH YOU LOTS OF LUCK, DOC.
IF WHAT YOU WANT IS PEACE AND QUIET, YOU'LL FIND IT WAY OUT HERE.
BUT, GOSH -- HEROES ARE HARD TO FIND!
THE ENGINEER, WHO IS ALSO THE ASTONISHING ANT-MAN, WALKS AWAY...
...TO REJOIN HIS CREW AS THE FINISHING TOUCHES ARE PUT ON BRUCE BANNER'S "FORTRESS OF SCIENTIFIC SOLITUDE!"
OKAY! LOWER AWAY!
THIS IS THE POWER CORE FOR NORTH WIND OBSERVA-TORY.
SHE'S READY TO BE INSTALLED, MR. LANG -- BUT NONE OF OUR BOYS WANT TO DO THE HOOK-UP!
12


BECAUSE OF THE GAMMA RAYS POWERING THE GENERATOR? I UNDERSTAND. WE DON'T WANT TO CHANCE A LOT OF LITTLE HULKS RUNNING AROUND-- THOUGH I'M SURE IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE.
BANNER'LL BE OUT ANY SECOND TO SUPERVISE. WE CAN WAIT FOR HIM--
--SINCE HE'S WAITED SO LONG TO BE ABLE TO RESUME HIS LIFE.
NEW YORK CITY...
IT'S MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE...
...BUT TO RICK JONES IT'S SIMPLY THE END OF THE ROAD.
ABANDONED-- THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN!
DISCARDED LIKE AN OLD SHOE!
I RETURNED TO HELP DOC BANNER OUT--TO BE WITH HIM WHILE HE FOUND A FINAL CURE FOR HIMSELF!
WELL, HE FOUND IT--HE'S IN CONTROL OF THE HULK NOW... A HERO... A CELEBRITY--
--AND HE'S GOT NO MORE USE FOR RICK JONES!
13

BUT LET'S BE HONEST, RICK, SHALL WE? IT WAS YOU WHO CAUSED THE DOC TO BECOME THE HULK IN THE FIRST PLACE! THEN, WHEN HE NEEDED YOU MOST--
--YOU ABANDONED HIM TO GO PLAY SUPER-HERO ALONGSIDE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE AVENGERS!


YEAH, TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY, I GUESS!

HEY--WHAT'S THAT?!

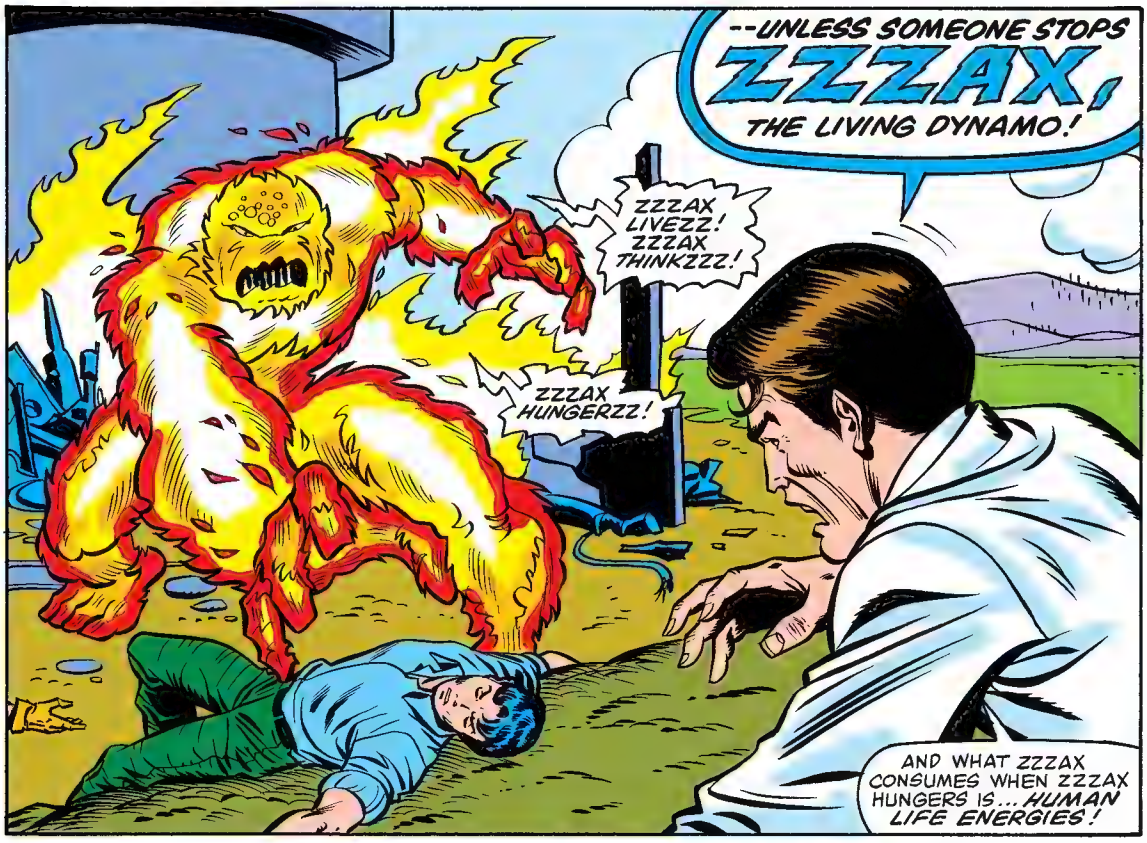

A MOVIE PREMIERE...
GLOBE
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK IN NEW DIMENSIAVISION
C'MON! THE TICKET WINDOW'S JUST ABOUT TO OPEN!

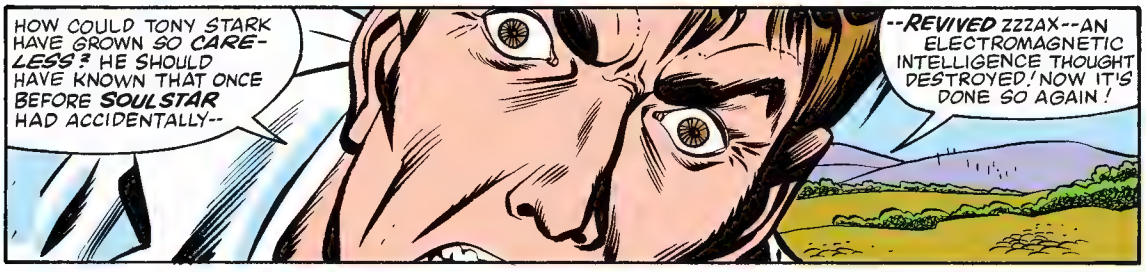
A NEW MOVIE... ABOUT THE HULK?!
THIS FLICK'S S'POSED TO HAVE SPECIAL EFFECTS THAT MAKE STAR WARS LOOK LIKE SESAME STREET!

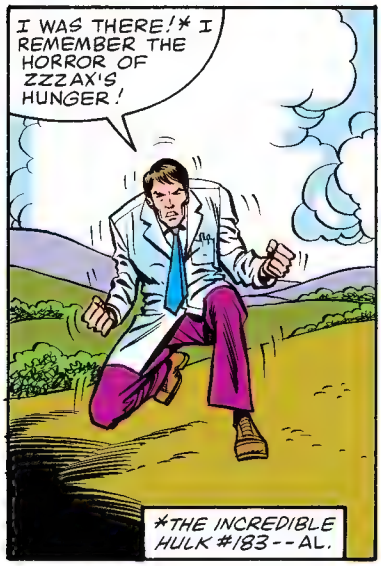
STAND BACK! THE DIRECTOR IS ARRIVING!
THE DIRECTOR HERSELF! WOW!
I HEAR SHE'S A WEIRD ONE!
YEAH-- CLAIMS TO BE AN ALIEN!
14

SAYS THAT'S HOW SHE CAN MAKE FILMS AS *REALISTIC* AS THIS ONE!
BEREET?
BEREET!
OH, HELLO, RICK!
RICK? *RICK JONES?* WOW! THE HULK'S SIDEKICK IS HERE!
I'M NOT THE HULK'S-- OH, WHAT'S THE USE!
BEREET--HOW COULD YOU DO IT? I THOUGHT YOU *LIKED* THE HULK? HOW COULD YOU *CAPITALIZE* ON HIM?!
AND WHAT ELSE HAVE *YOU* EVER DONE, RICK?
YOU FORGET--VIA MY *STAR EYE* I OBSERVED YOU BOTH FROM AFAR FROM THE BEGINNING. YOU ALWAYS CAME *BACK* TO THE HULK, RICK--
--BECAUSE, WITHOUT HIM, YOU WERE *NOTHING!* NOW EXCUSE ME -- MY FANS AWAIT!
IS--IS SHE RIGHT? AM I NOTHING MORE THAN SOME KIND OF *PARASITE?!*
UPSTATE...
READY, SCOTT?
WHENEVER YOU GIVE THE WORD, DR. BANNER!
THEN ORDER YOUR CREW TO BEGIN LOWERING THE POWER CORE TOWARD ITS COUPLINGS.
15

GENTLY, ONE SLIP--ONE LEAK OF THE GAMMA ENERGY STORED WITHIN IT--AND WE MAY ALL BE SUDDENLY GREEN!
OR DEAD!
OKAY, BOYS! THIS IS IT!
HOVERCRANES LOWER THE MASSIVE POWER CORE ONTO ITS CRADLE. WORKMEN QUICKLY MOVE INTO PLACE TO COUPLE THE POWER CORE TO THE OBSERVATORY.
EVEN BEFORE YOU MODIFIED IT, DOC, THAT POWER CORE WAS ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ENERGY GENERATORS EVER DEVISED.
I WAS IMPRESSED... AND SURPRISED. IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE TONY STARK'S HANDIWORK.
THE BOSS? HE DIDN'T DESIGN IT!
HE BOUGHT THE PATENT FROM A NOW-DEFUNCT RESEARCH GROUP KNOWN AS SOULSTAR...
DID YOU SAY... SOULSTAR? GOOD LORD, LANG! STOP THE HOOKUP AT ONCE!
TOO LATE.
WHAT?! A SUDDEN ENERGY SURGE! THAT SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING!
BUT IT IS! GET BACK!
AGAIN, TOO LATE!
ZZRAK
NO!
THE WORK CREW HAS BEEN STUNNED BY A MASSIVE ELECTROMAGNETIC DISCHARGE FROM THE POWER CORE.
THEY SEEM OTHERWISE UNHURT, BUT THEY WON'T REMAIN THAT WAY FOR LONG--
16

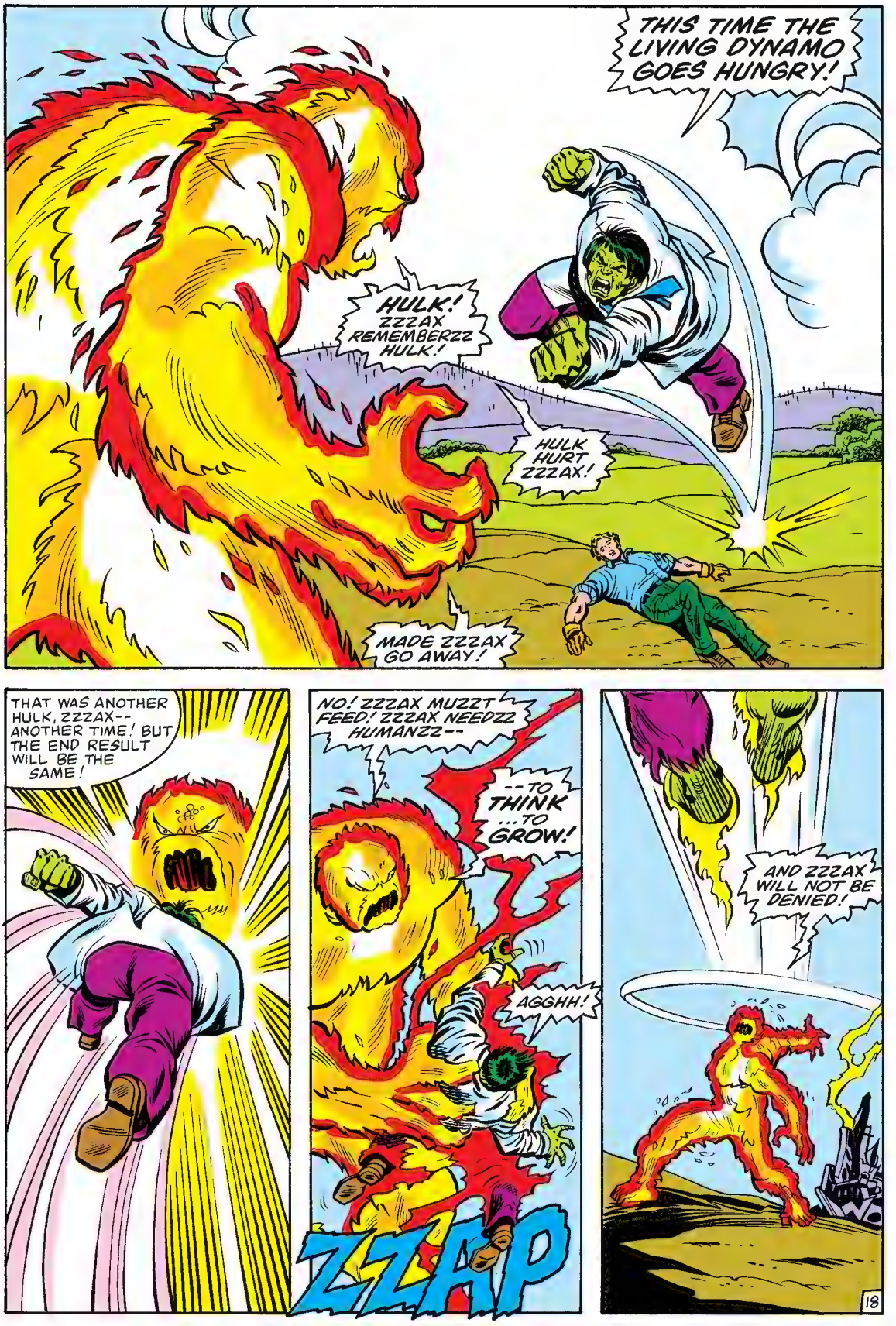

--UNLESS SOMEONE STOPS ZZZAX, THE LIVING DYNAMO!
ZZZAX LIVEZZ! ZZZAX THINKZZZ!
ZZZAX HUNGERZZ!
AND WHAT ZZZAX CONSUMES WHEN ZZZAX HUNGERS IS... HUMAN LIFE ENERGIES!

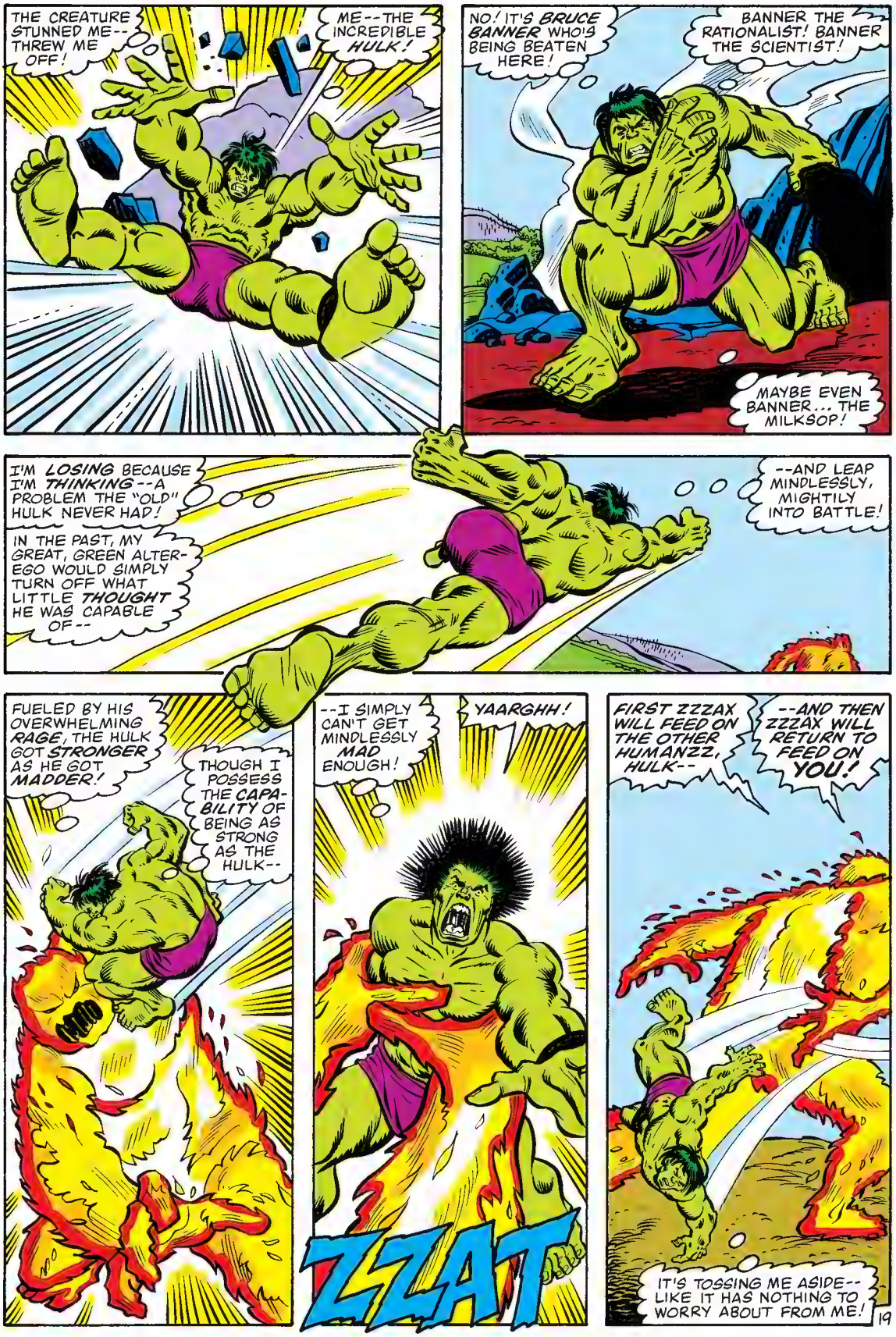

HOW COULD TONY STARK HAVE GROWN SO CARELESS? HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT ONCE BEFORE SOULSTAR HAD ACCIDENTALLY--
--REVIVED ZZZAX--AN ELECTROMAGNETIC INTELLIGENCE THOUGHT DESTROYED! NOW IT'S DONE SO AGAIN!

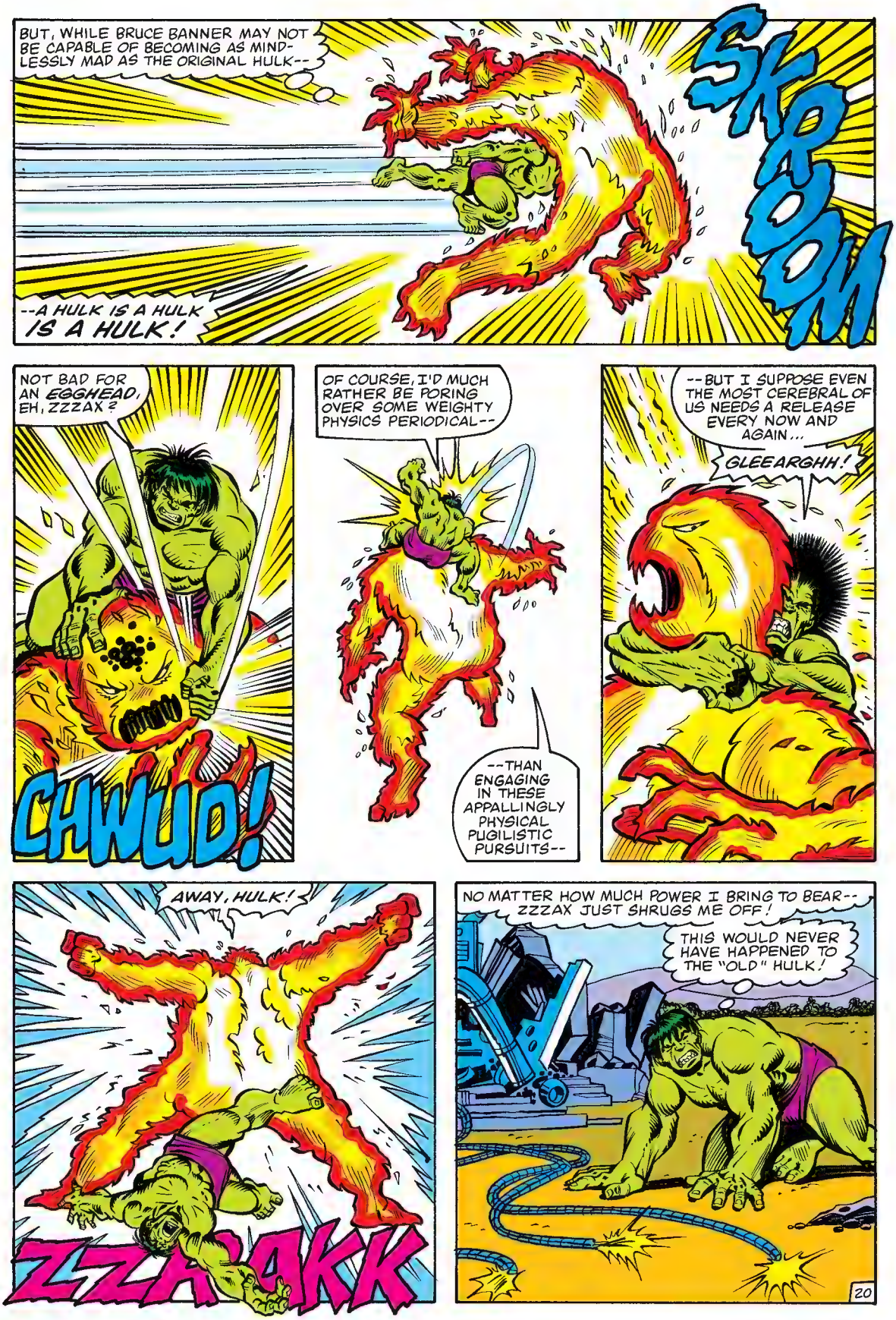

I WAS THERE!* I REMEMBER THE HORROR OF ZZZAX'S HUNGER!
*THE INCREDIBLE HULK #183--AL.

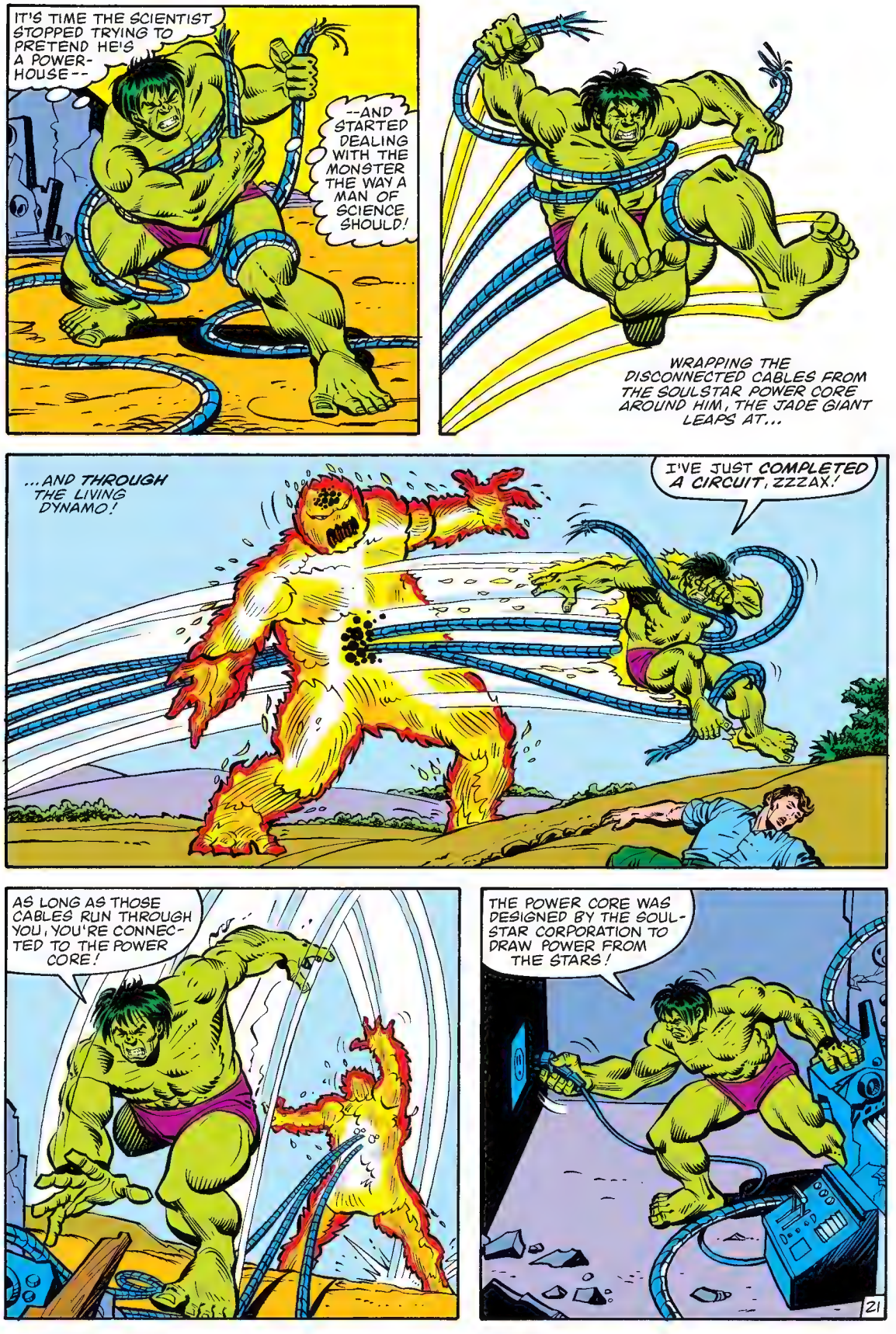
WHEN HE SITS DOWN TO SUPPER, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THE HUMAN BEINGS ON WHICH HE FEEDS!

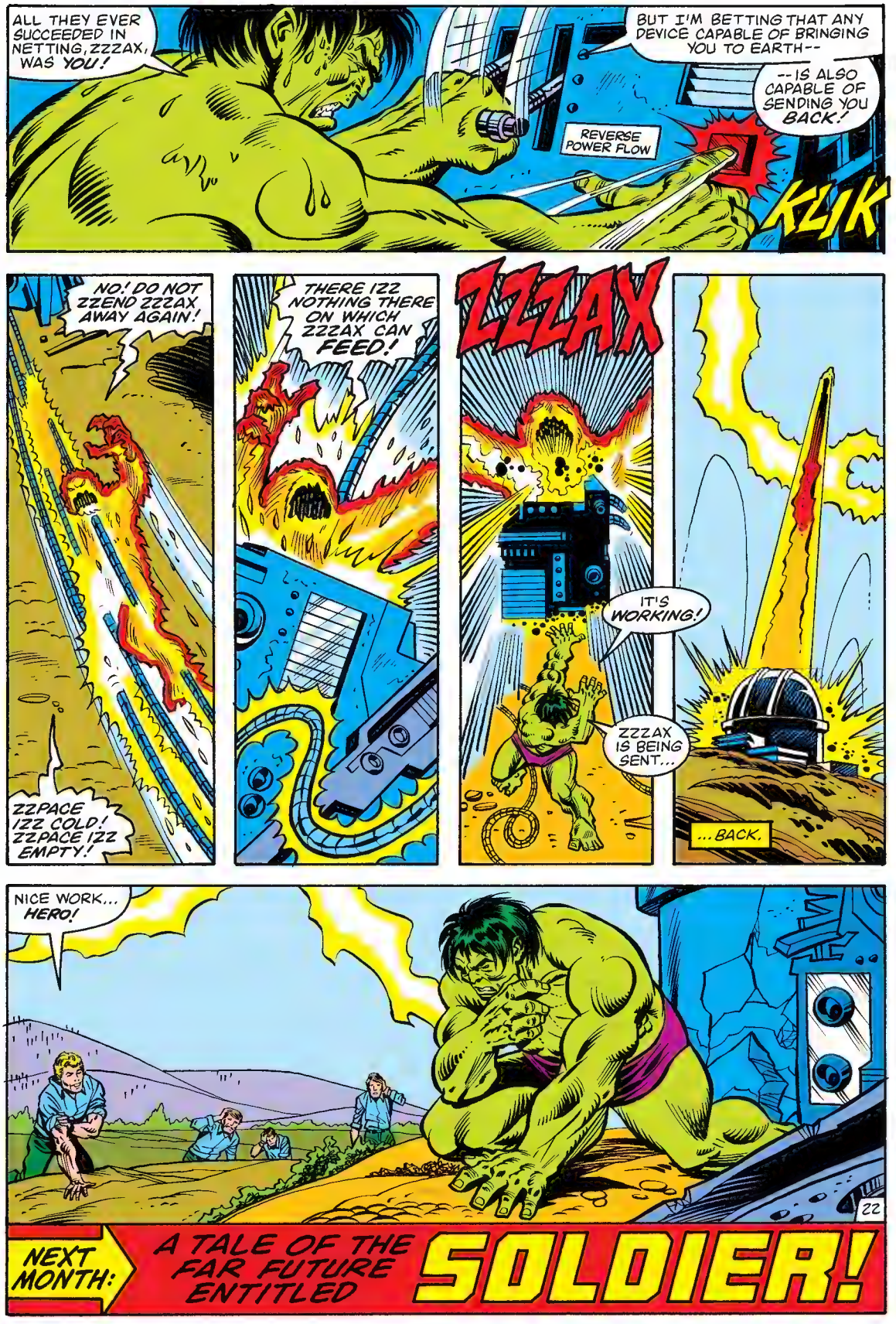
SO ZZZAX MUST NOT FEED!
17

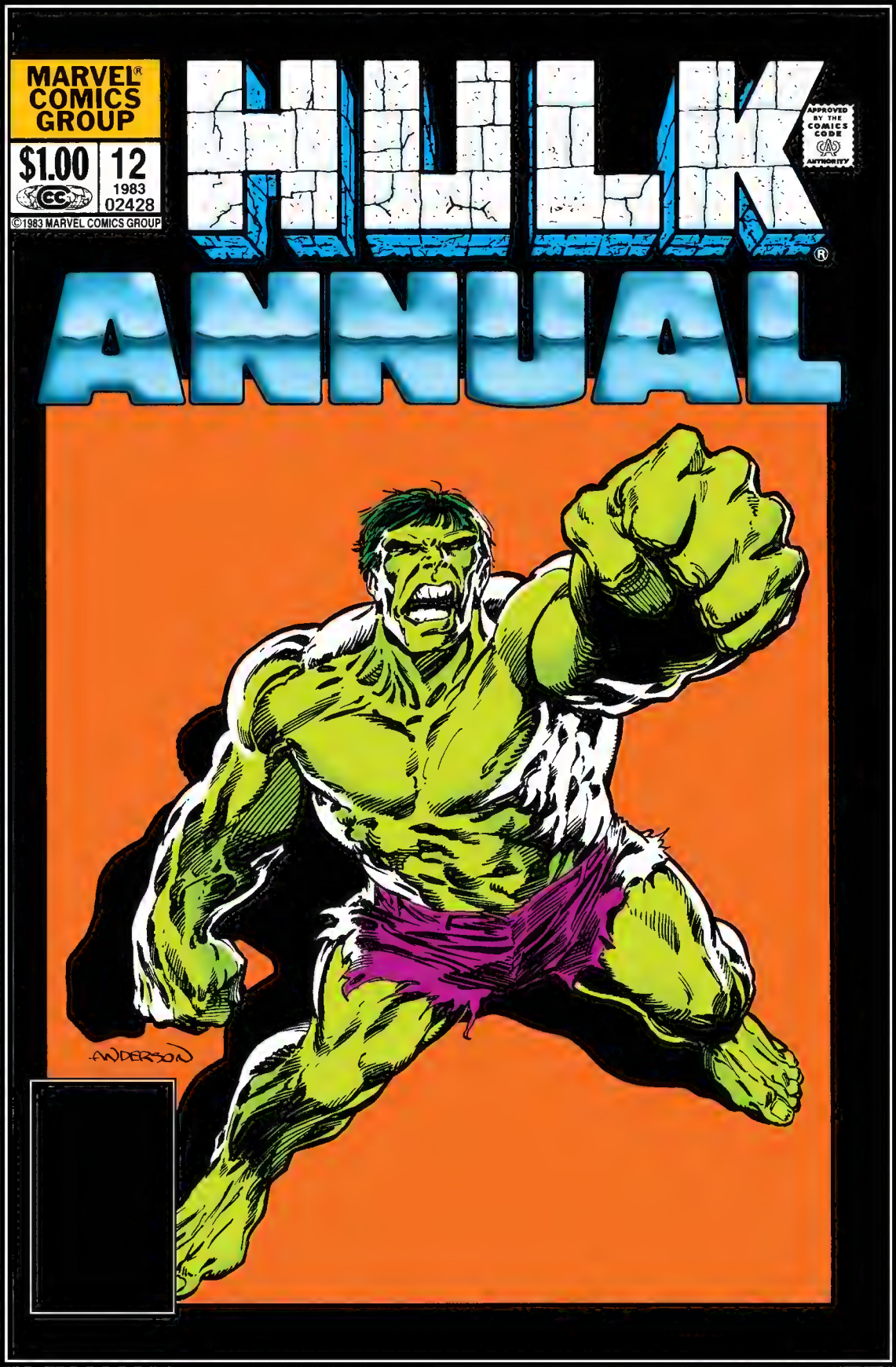

THIS TIME THE LIVING DYNAMO GOES HUNGRY!
HULK! ZZZAX REMEMBERZZ HULK!
HULK HURT ZZZAX!
MADE ZZZAX GO AWAY!
THAT WAS ANOTHER HULK, ZZZAX-- ANOTHER TIME! BUT THE END RESULT WILL BE THE SAME!
NO! ZZZAX MUZZT FEED! ZZZAX NEEDZZ HUMANZZ--
--TO THINK ...TO GROW!
AGGHH!
ZZAP
AND ZZZAX WILL NOT BE DENIED!
18


THE CREATURE STUNNED ME--THREW ME OFF!
ME--THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
NO! IT'S BRUCE BANNER WHO'S BEING BEATEN HERE!
BANNER THE RATIONALIST! BANNER THE SCIENTIST!
MAYBE EVEN BANNER... THE MILKSOP!
I'M LOSING BECAUSE I'M THINKING--A PROBLEM THE "OLD" HULK NEVER HAD!
IN THE PAST, MY GREAT, GREEN ALTER-EGO WOULD SIMPLY TURN OFF WHAT LITTLE THOUGHT HE WAS CAPABLE OF--
--AND LEAP MINDLESSLY, MIGHTILY INTO BATTLE!
FUELED BY HIS OVERWHELMING RAGE, THE HULK GOT STRONGER AS HE GOT MADDER!
THOUGH I POSSESS THE CAPABILITY OF BEING AS STRONG AS THE HULK--
--I SIMPLY CAN'T GET MINDLESSLY MAD ENOUGH!
YAARGHH!
ZZAT
FIRST ZZZAX WILL FEED ON THE OTHER HUMANZZ, HULK--
--AND THEN ZZZAX WILL RETURN TO FEED ON YOU!
IT'S TOSSING ME ASIDE--LIKE IT HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FROM ME!
19


BUT, WHILE BRUCE BANNER MAY NOT BE CAPABLE OF BECOMING AS MINDLESSLY MAD AS THE ORIGINAL HULK--
--A HULK IS A HULK IS A HULK!
SKROOM
NOT BAD FOR AN EGGHEAD, EH, ZZZAX?
CHWUD!
OF COURSE, I'D MUCH RATHER BE PORING OVER SOME WEIGHTY PHYSICS PERIODICAL--
--THAN ENGAGING IN THESE APPALLINGLY PHYSICAL PUGILISTIC PURSUITS--
--BUT I SUPPOSE EVEN THE MOST CEREBRAL OF US NEEDS A RELEASE EVERY NOW AND AGAIN...
GLEEARGHH!
AWAY, HULK!
ZZRAKK
NO MATTER HOW MUCH POWER I BRING TO BEAR-- ZZZAX JUST SHRUGS ME OFF!
THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED TO THE "OLD" HULK!
20


IT'S TIME THE SCIENTIST STOPPED TRYING TO PRETEND HE'S A POWER-HOUSE--
--AND STARTED DEALING WITH THE MONSTER THE WAY A MAN OF SCIENCE SHOULD!
WRAPPING THE DISCONNECTED CABLES FROM THE SOULSTAR POWER CORE AROUND HIM, THE JADE GIANT LEAPS AT...
...AND THROUGH THE LIVING DYNAMO!
I'VE JUST COMPLETED A CIRCUIT, ZZZAX!
AS LONG AS THOSE CABLES RUN THROUGH YOU, YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE POWER CORE!
THE POWER CORE WAS DESIGNED BY THE SOULSTAR CORPORATION TO DRAW POWER FROM THE STARS!
21


ALL THEY EVER SUCCEEDED IN NETTING, ZZZAX, WAS YOU!
BUT I'M BETTING THAT ANY DEVICE CAPABLE OF BRINGING YOU TO EARTH--
--IS ALSO CAPABLE OF SENDING YOU BACK!
REVERSE POWER FLOW
KLIK
NO! DO NOT ZZEND ZZZAX AWAY AGAIN!
ZZPACE IZZ COLD! ZZPACE IZZ EMPTY!
THERE IZZ NOTHING THERE ON WHICH ZZZAX CAN FEED!
ZZZAX
IT'S WORKING!
ZZZAX IS BEING SENT...
...BACK.
NICE WORK... HERO!
22
NEXT MONTH:
A TALE OF THE FAR FUTURE ENTITLED
SOLDIER!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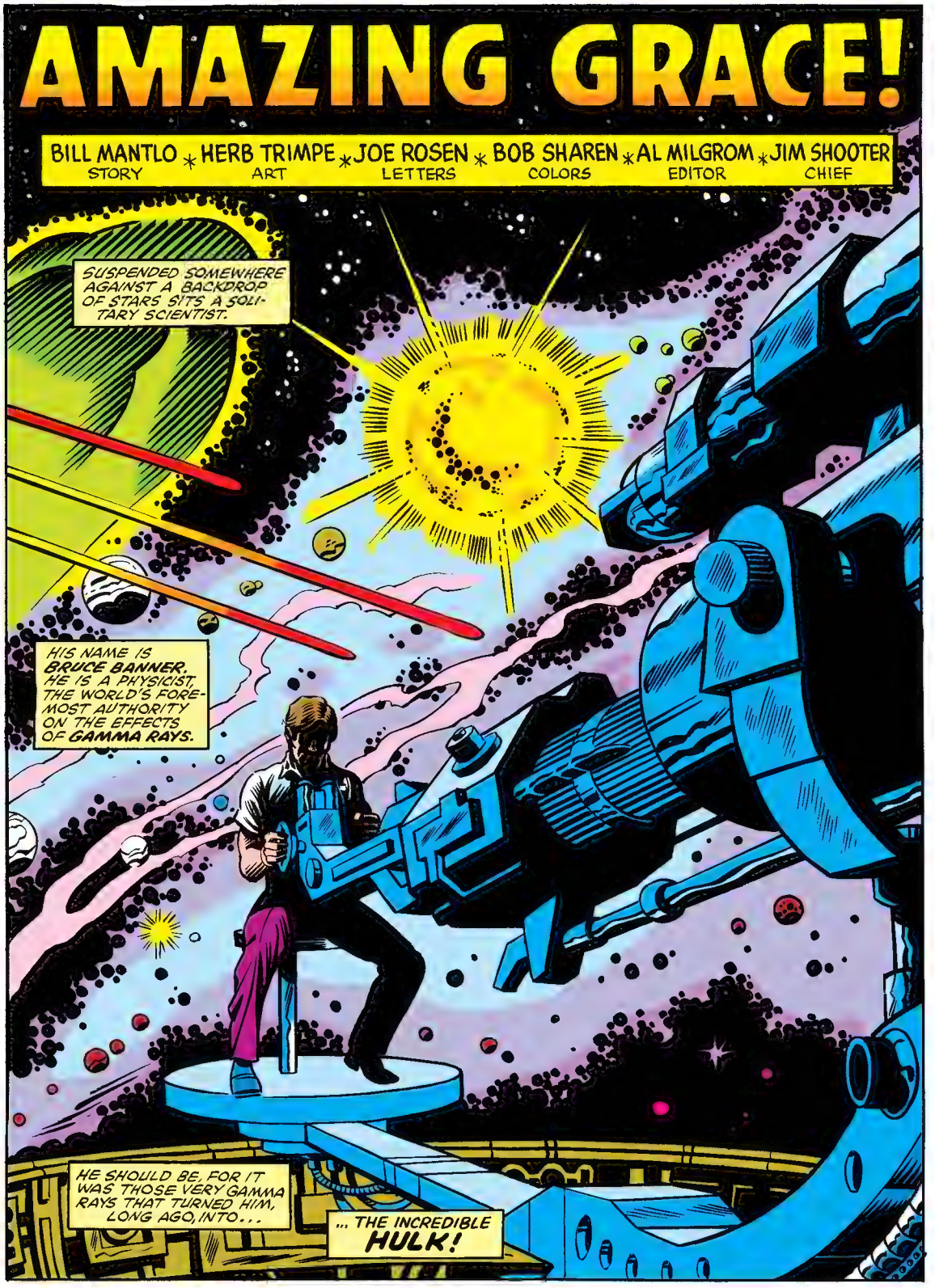
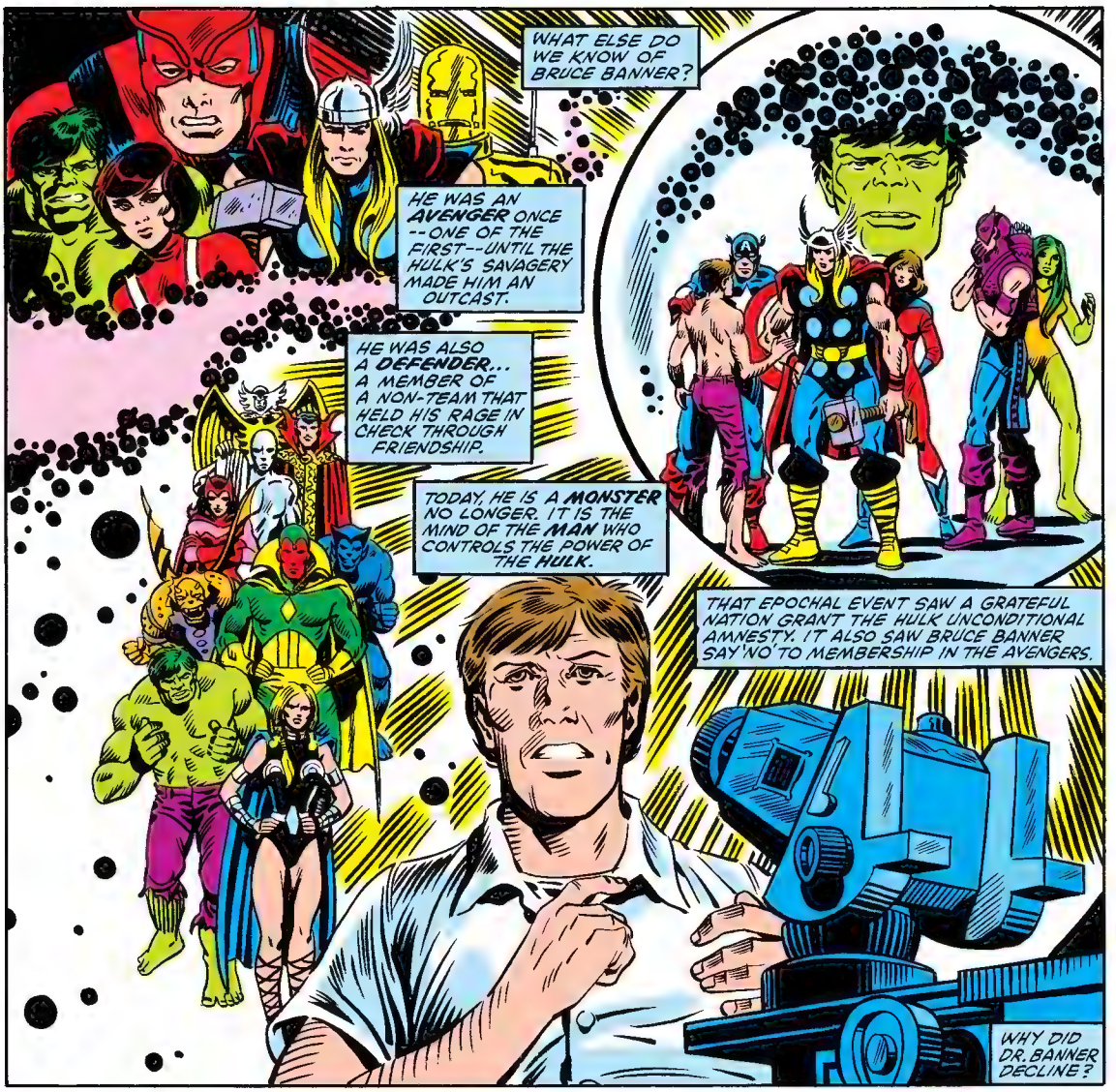
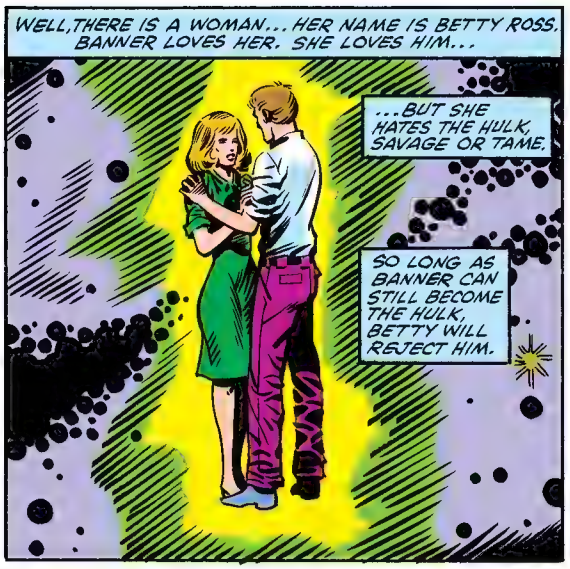
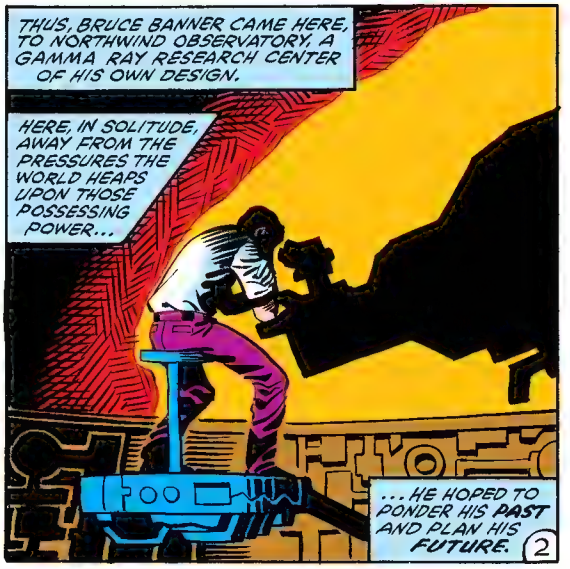
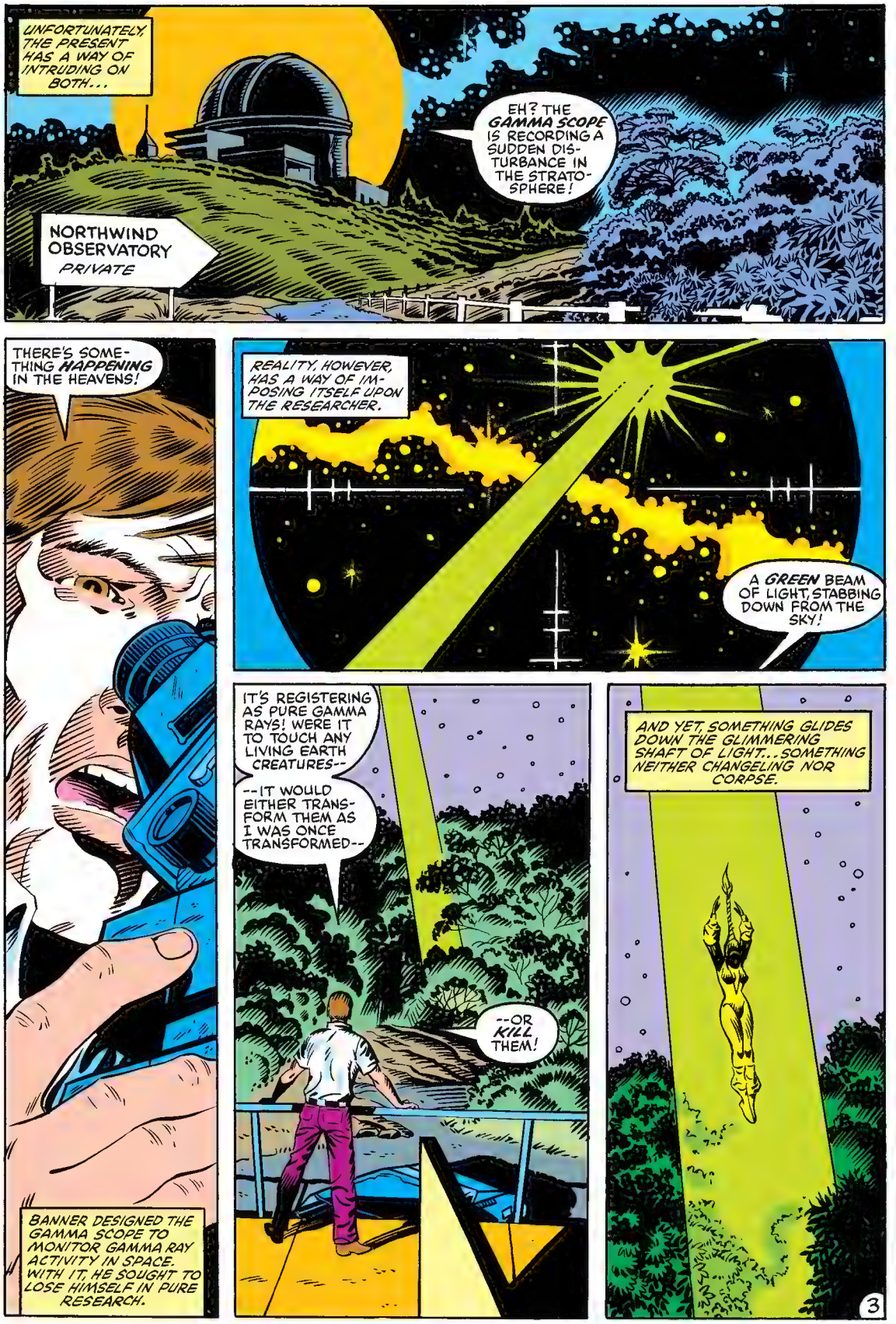
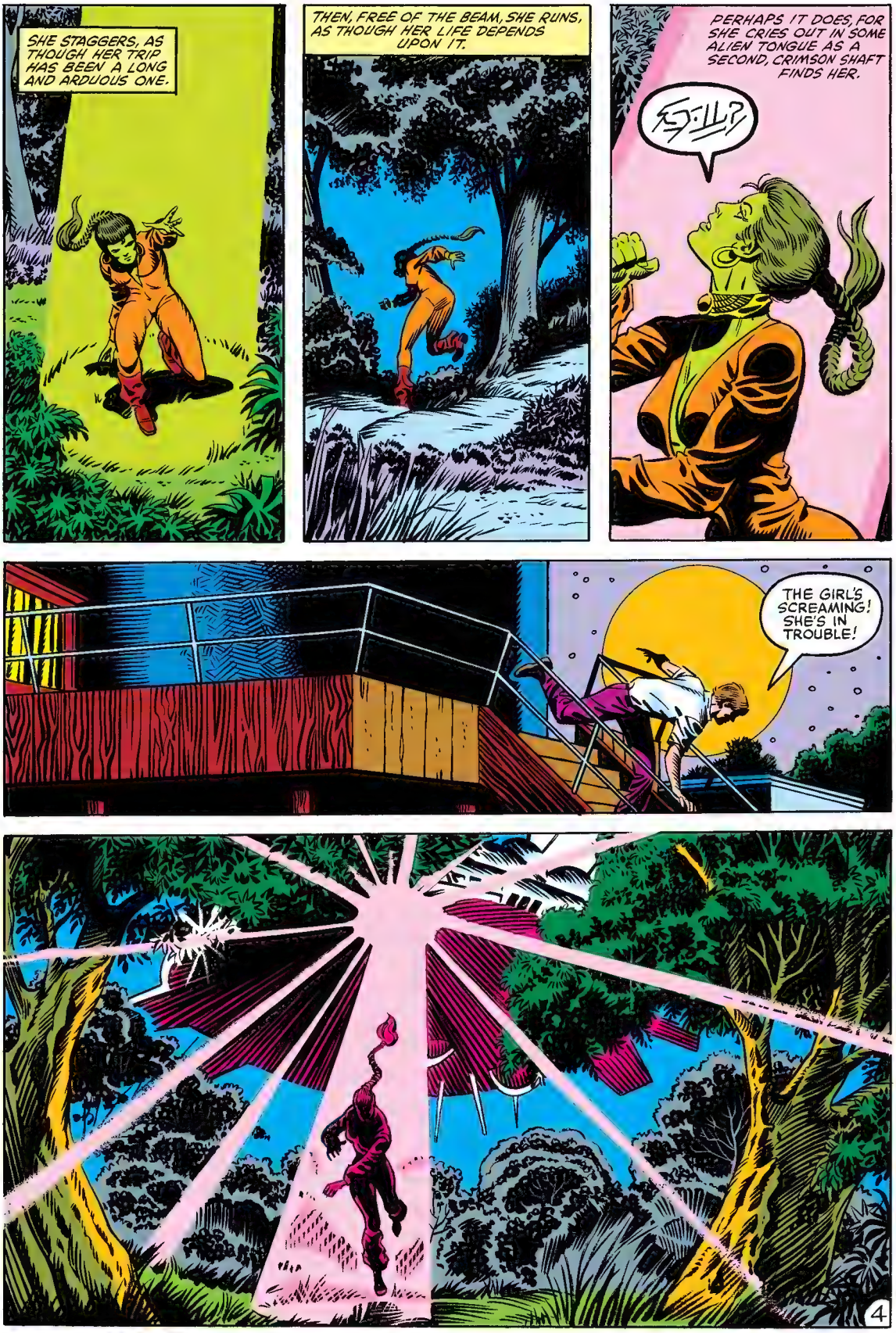

AMAZING GRACE!
BILL MANTLO * HERB TRIMPE * JOE ROSEN * BOB SHAREN * AL MILGROM * JIM SHOOTER
STORY ART LETTERS COLORS EDITOR CHIEF
SUSPENDED SOMEWHERE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF STARS SITS A SOLITARY SCIENTIST.
HIS NAME IS BRUCE BANNER. HE IS A PHYSICIST. THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON THE EFFECTS OF GAMMA RAYS.
HE SHOULD BE, FOR IT WAS THOSE VERY GAMMA RAYS THAT TURNED HIM, LONG AGO, INTO...
... THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

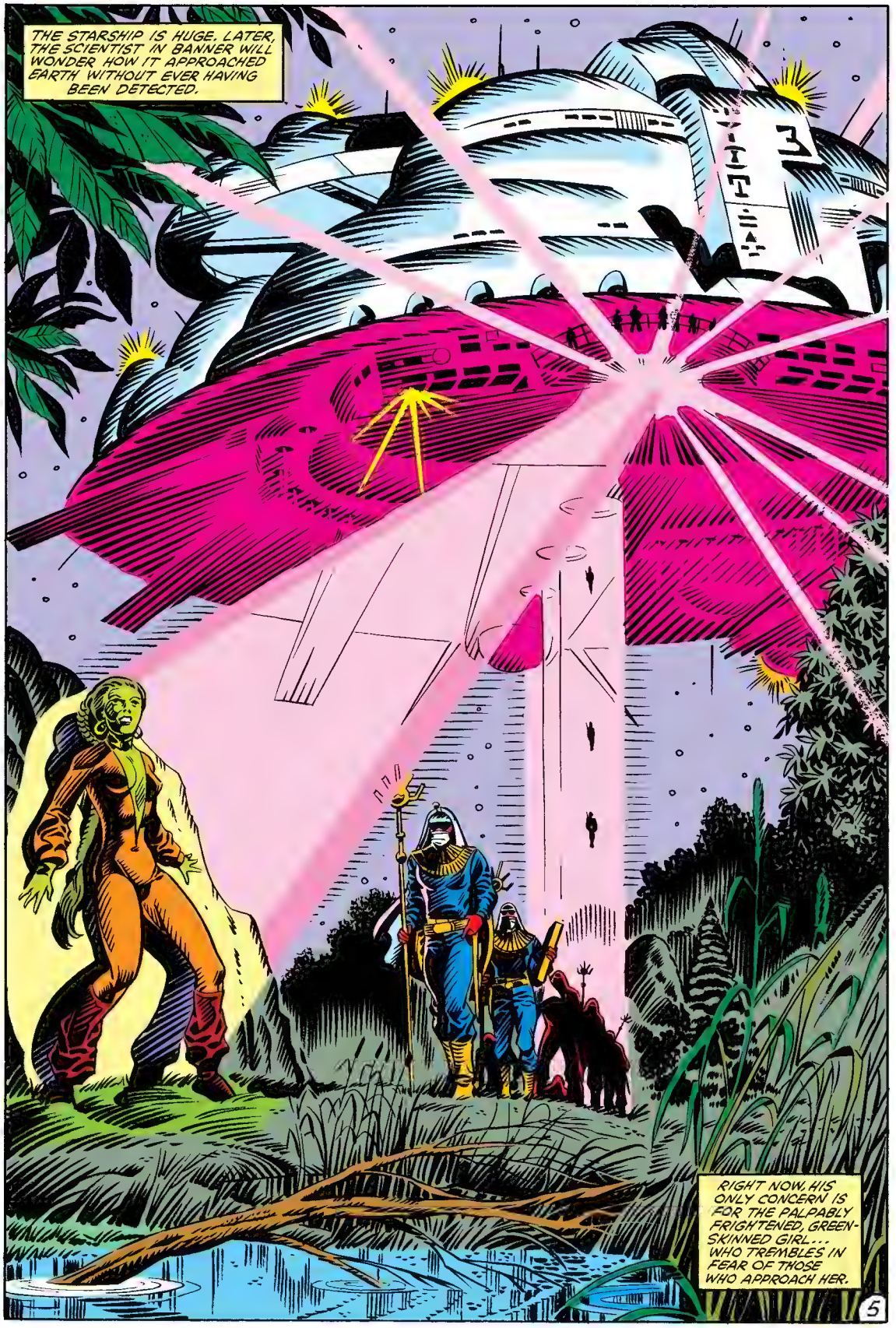

WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW OF BRUCE BANNER?
HE WAS AN AVENGER ONCE --ONE OF THE FIRST--UNTIL THE HULK'S SAVAGERY MADE HIM AN OUTCAST.
HE WAS ALSO A DEFENDER... A MEMBER OF A NON-TEAM THAT HELD HIS RAGE IN CHECK THROUGH FRIENDSHIP.
TODAY, HE IS A MONSTER NO LONGER. IT IS THE MIND OF THE MAN WHO CONTROLS THE POWER OF THE HULK.
THAT EPOCHAL EVENT SAW A GRATEFUL NATION GRANT THE HULK UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY. IT ALSO SAW BRUCE BANNER SAY 'NO' TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE AVENGERS.
WHY DID DR. BANNER DECLINE?


WELL, THERE IS A WOMAN... HER NAME IS BETTY ROSS. BANNER LOVES HER. SHE LOVES HIM...
...BUT SHE HATES THE HULK, SAVAGE OR TAME.
SO LONG AS BANNER CAN STILL BECOME THE HULK, BETTY WILL REJECT HIM.


THUS, BRUCE BANNER CAME HERE, TO NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY, A GAMMA RAY RESEARCH CENTER OF HIS OWN DESIGN.
HERE, IN SOLITUDE, AWAY FROM THE PRESSURES THE WORLD HEAPS UPON THOSE POSSESSING POWER...
...HE HOPED TO PONDER HIS PAST AND PLAN HIS FUTURE.
2


UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESENT HAS A WAY OF INTRUDING ON BOTH...
NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY PRIVATE
EH? THE GAMMA SCOPE IS RECORDING A SUDDEN DISTURBANCE IN THE STRATOSPHERE!
THERE'S SOMETHING HAPPENING IN THE HEAVENS!
BANNER DESIGNED THE GAMMA SCOPE TO MONITOR GAMMA RAY ACTIVITY IN SPACE. WITH IT, HE SOUGHT TO LOSE HIMSELF IN PURE RESEARCH.
REALITY, HOWEVER, HAS A WAY OF IMPOSING ITSELF UPON THE RESEARCHER.
A GREEN BEAM OF LIGHT, STABBING DOWN FROM THE SKY!
IT'S REGISTERING AS PURE GAMMA RAYS! WERE IT TO TOUCH ANY LIVING EARTH CREATURES--
--IT WOULD EITHER TRANSFORM THEM AS I WAS ONCE TRANSFORMED--
--OR KILL THEM!
AND YET, SOMETHING GLIDES DOWN THE GLIMMERING SHAFT OF LIGHT... SOMETHING NEITHER CHANGELING NOR CORPSE.
3


SHE STAGGERS, AS THOUGH HER TRIP HAS BEEN A LONG AND ARDUOUS ONE.
THEN, FREE OF THE BEAM, SHE RUNS, AS THOUGH HER LIFE DEPENDS UPON IT.
PERHAPS IT DOES, FOR SHE CRIES OUT IN SOME ALIEN TONGUE AS A SECOND, CRIMSON SHAFT FINDS HER.
THE GIRL'S SCREAMING! SHE'S IN TROUBLE!
4


THE STARSHIP IS HUGE. LATER, THE SCIENTIST IN BANNER WILL WONDER HOW IT APPROACHED EARTH WITHOUT EVER HAVING BEEN DETECTED.
RIGHT NOW, HIS ONLY CONCERN IS FOR THE PALPABLY FRIGHTENED, GREEN-SKINNED GIRL... WHO TREMBLES IN FEAR OF THOSE WHO APPROACH HER.
5

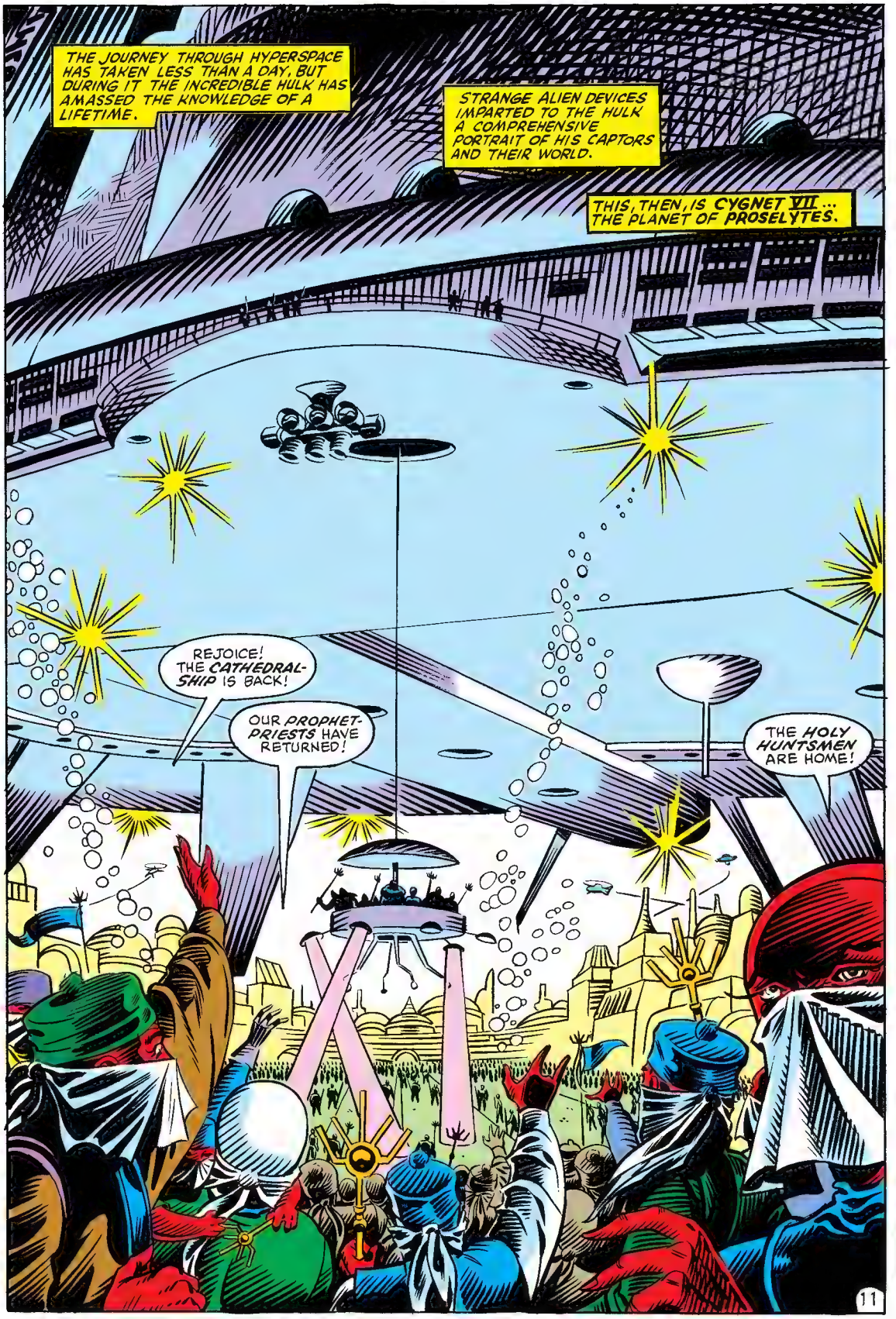
SCARED SHE IS, BUT NOT PARALYZED WITH FRIGHT.
CLEARLY AN INSULT.
CLEARLY A COMMAND.
BLASTER BEATS STICK.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON--
--BUT I DO KNOW WHO HAS THE ADVANTAGE--
--AND NO ONE CAN QUITE EVEN THE ODDS FOR THE UNDERDOG--
--LIKE BRUCE BANNER, THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
WITH BUT A THOUGHT, THE PALE PHYSICIST TRANSFORMS HIMSELF FROM A MAN... INTO THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
6

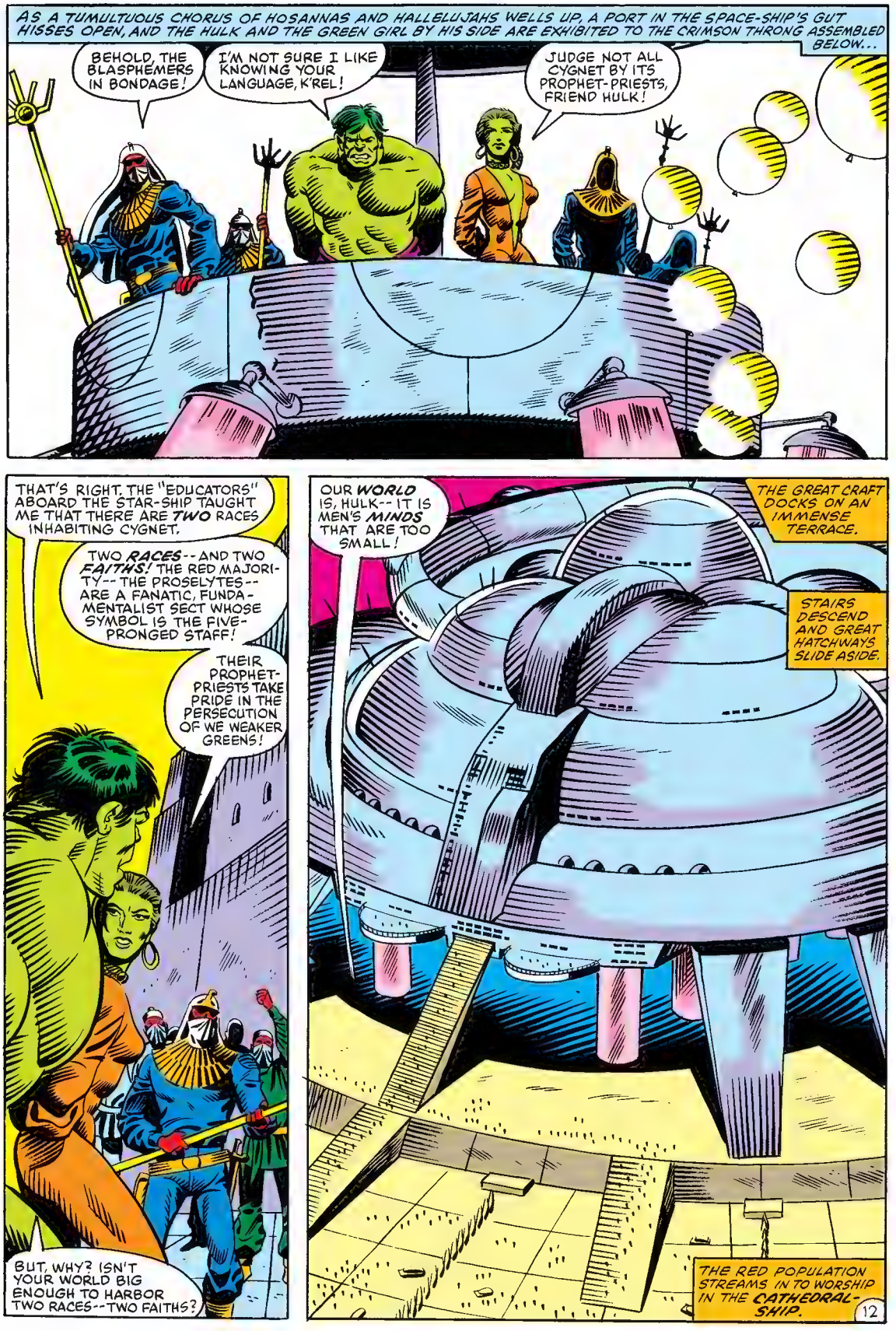
AHEAD OF HIM, THE GREEN-SKINNED GIRL KEEPS UP HER VALIANT RESISTANCE...
VALIANT... BUT DOOMED TO FUTILITY UNLESS SOME SAVIOR CAN BE FOUND.
ENTER: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN, BUT CONTRARY TO THE PUBLIC OPINION POLLS--
--CHIVALRY IS NOT DEAD!
7

VREET
SORRY, FRIEND-- I DIDN'T FOLLOW THAT.
ME, I PREFER TO SPEAK SOFTLY... AND CARRY A BIG STICK.
YOURS, FOR INSTANCE.
GIVEN COURAGE BY THE SUDDEN AND STARTLING APPEARANCE OF A WARRIOR POSSESSING THE SAME EMERALD PIGMENTATION AS HERSELF...
...THE GIRL RESUMES HER RESISTANCE.
IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE, THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH SMILES.
HE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT THE ALIEN WOMAN SAID...
...BUT HE LIKES THE WAY SHE SAID IT.
BUT SHE IS STILL ONLY ONE... HER ENEMIES MANY.
8

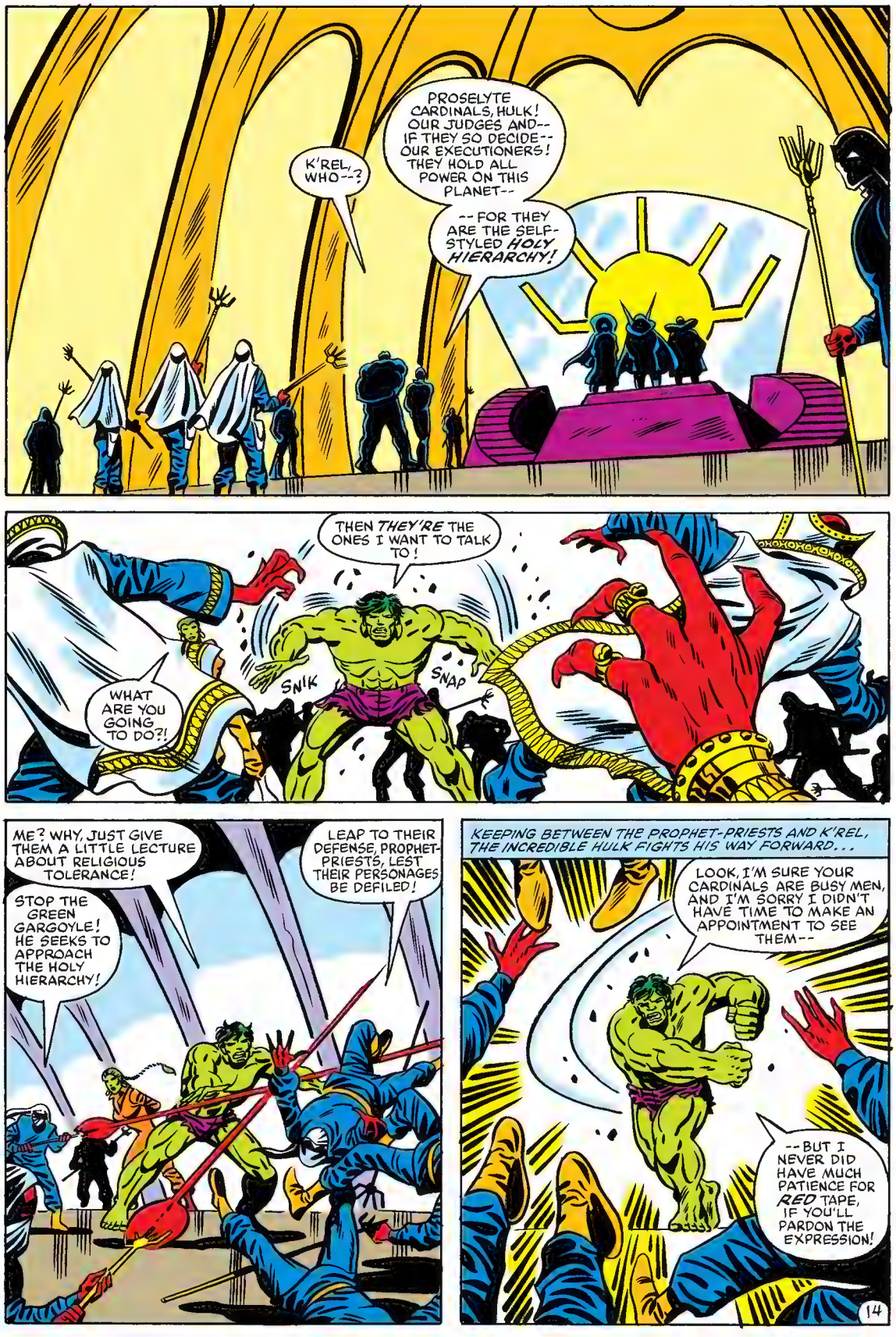
YOU HEARD HER, MASKED MARAUDER--LET THE LADY GO!
THEY BACK AWAY FROM THE EMERALD ALLIES THEN, HAVING GAINED A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR THE HULK'S PROWESS.
BUT THEIR WITHDRAWAL IS NOT A RETREAT...
AGAIN THE TONE IS ONE OF COMMAND...
...AND THE ORDER IS EFFICIENTLY CARRIED OUT.
ANOTHER RED BEAM STRIKING DOWN AT US FROM THE SPACESHIP OVERHEAD!
9

WE'RE CAUGHT-- ASCENDING!
NO SOONER ARE THE HULK AND THE GIRL WHISKED INSIDE THE GREAT HOVERING CRAFT...THAN THEIR ASSAILANTS FOLLOW.
ON THE BRIDGE, A FINAL ORDER IS GIVEN...
SOME DISTANCE AWAY, A FOREST RANGER PATROL JEEP STOPS ON A WINDING BACK ROAD...
LEW, YOU SEE THAT RED GLOW?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS, SAL? FIRE?
NOT HARDLY!
HOLY--!
RANGER
THEY WILL REPORT THIS SIGHTING OF THE U.F.O.
LUCKILY FOR THEM, NO ONE WILL BELIEVE.
10


THE JOURNEY THROUGH HYPERSPACE HAS TAKEN LESS THAN A DAY. BUT DURING IT THE INCREDIBLE HULK HAS AMASSED THE KNOWLEDGE OF A LIFETIME.
STRANGE ALIEN DEVICES IMPARTED TO THE HULK A COMPREHENSIVE PORTRAIT OF HIS CAPTORS AND THEIR WORLD.
THIS, THEN, IS CYGNET VII ... THE PLANET OF PROSELYTES.
REJOICE! THE CATHEDRAL-SHIP IS BACK!
OUR PROPHET-PRIESTS HAVE RETURNED!
THE HOLY HUNTSMEN ARE HOME!
11


AS A TUMULTUOUS CHORUS OF HOSANNAS AND HALLELUJAHS WELLS UP, A PORT IN THE SPACE-SHIP'S GUT HISSES OPEN, AND THE HULK AND THE GREEN GIRL BY HIS SIDE ARE EXHIBITED TO THE CRIMSON THRONG ASSEMBLED BELOW...
BEHOLD, THE BLASPHEMERS IN BONDAGE!
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE KNOWING YOUR LANGUAGE, K'REL!
JUDGE NOT ALL CYGNET BY ITS PROPHET-PRIESTS, FRIEND HULK!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE "EDUCATORS" ABOARD THE STAR-SHIP TAUGHT ME THAT THERE ARE TWO RACES INHABITING CYGNET.
TWO RACES--AND TWO FAITHS! THE RED MAJORITY--THE PROSELYTES--ARE A FANATIC, FUNDAMENTALIST SECT WHOSE SYMBOL IS THE FIVE-PRONGED STAFF!
THEIR PROPHET-PRIESTS TAKE PRIDE IN THE PERSECUTION OF WE WEAKER GREENS!
BUT, WHY? ISN'T YOUR WORLD BIG ENOUGH TO HARBOR TWO RACES--TWO FAITHS?
OUR WORLD IS, HULK--IT IS MEN'S MINDS THAT ARE TOO SMALL!
THE GREAT CRAFT DOCKS ON AN IMMENSE TERRACE.
STAIRS DESCEND AND GREAT HATCHWAYS SLIDE ASIDE.
THE RED POPULATION STREAMS IN TO WORSHIP IN THE CATHEDRAL-SHIP.
12

THE HULK AND K'REL ARE LED BY THE PROPHET-PRIESTS THROUGH A TAUNTING, JEERING CRIMSON CROWD...
DISBELIEVERS!
I COULD BREAK FREE OF THESE HANDCUFFS AT ANY TIME, K'REL, BUT I'M AFRAID OF ENDANGERING YOU!
DIRTY GREENS!
BLASPHEMERS!
THE PROPHET-PRIESTS ARE AWARE OF YOUR MIGHT, HULK--AND FEAR IT! OTHERWISE, THE CROWD WOULD HAVE ME ALREADY!
BUT WHY DO THEY HATE YOU SO MUCH?
I AM A PRIESTESS OF THE GREENS, HULK! FOR SOME TIME I HAVE PROPHESIED THAT MY PEOPLE CANNOT REMAIN PERSECUTED FOREVER--
--THAT A CHAMPION WILL COME TO LIBERATE US FROM THE PROSELYTES' OPPRESSION.
LET YOUR GREEN TONGUES FALL SILENT, INFIDELS! THERE SHALL BE NO BLASPHEMY--
--BEFORE THE TEMPLE OF JUDGMENT!
THAT PROPHECY HAS GIVEN THE GREENS CAUSE TO HOPE--AND THE REDS REASON TO FEAR! THEY TRIED TO... SILENCE ME! I FLED OFF-WORLD!
AND THERE ENCOUNTERED...YOU!
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, THE HULK AND THE GREEN PRIESTESS BY HIS SIDE ARE HERDED IN.
13


K'REL, WHO--?
PROSELYTE CARDINALS, HULK! OUR JUDGES AND-- IF THEY SO DECIDE-- OUR EXECUTIONERS! THEY HOLD ALL POWER ON THIS PLANET--
-- FOR THEY ARE THE SELF-STYLED HOLY HIERARCHY!
THEN THEY'RE THE ONES I WANT TO TALK TO!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
SNIK
SNAP
ME? WHY, JUST GIVE THEM A LITTLE LECTURE ABOUT RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE!
STOP THE GREEN GARGOYLE! HE SEEKS TO APPROACH THE HOLY HIERARCHY!
LEAP TO THEIR DEFENSE, PROPHET-PRIESTS, LEST THEIR PERSONAGES BE DEFILED!
KEEPING BETWEEN THE PROPHET-PRIESTS AND K'REL, THE INCREDIBLE HULK FIGHTS HIS WAY FORWARD...
LOOK, I'M SURE YOUR CARDINALS ARE BUSY MEN, AND I'M SORRY I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE THEM--
--BUT I NEVER DID HAVE MUCH PATIENCE FOR RED TAPE, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION!
14

NOW, GENTLEMEN... LET'S TALK!
THERE IS NOTHING TO DISCUSS! WE HAVE LONG BEEN AWARE OF UNREST PLAGUING THE INFERIOR GREEN SECT!
THAT THEIR PRIESTESS DECREED THE COMING OF A CHAMPION WHO WOULD FREE THEM FROM OUR DOMINATION WAS THREATENING ENOUGH!
THAT SHE FOUND SUCH A CHAMPION CREATES AN EVEN MORE DANGEROUS SITUATION!
A SITUATION WE MUST DEFUSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE--
--BY DISPLAYING THE UTTER INADEQUACY OF BOTH THE PRIESTESS AND HER CHAMPION--
--FOR ALL OUR WORLD TO SEE!
BEHIND ME, K'REL! ARRGHH!
VREEEEEEET
OH!
WHY DO YOU HATE EACH OTHER? YOU'RE DIFFERENT COLORS, DIFFERENT FAITHS--
--BUT YOU'RE STILL BOTH HUMAN!
WHY CAN'T YOU LEARN TO LIVE...
...TOGETHER?
UNHHHHH
15

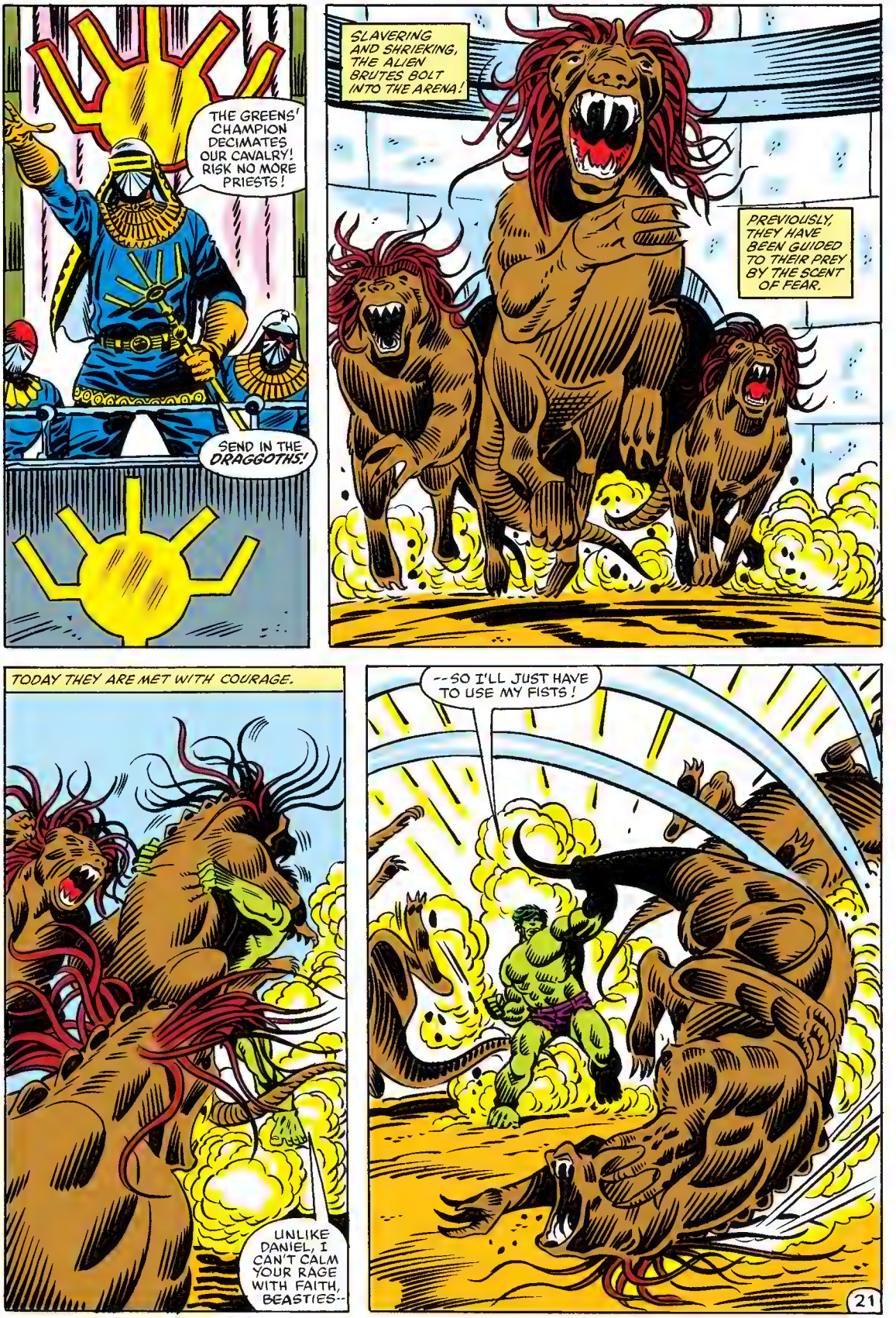
THE POWER OF THE HOLY HIERARCHY'S STAVES HAVING SLAMMED THE HULK DOWN INTO UNSOUGHT SLUMBER --
--HIS AND K'REL'S STATUS IS DEBATED... JUDGMENT IS PASSED.
A FLIER FROM THE TEMPLE OF JUDGMENT! OPEN THE GATE!
PREPARE TO RECEIVE NEW PRISONERS FOR THE PIT!
GUARD THEM WELL, FOR ONE IS SO MIGHTY THAT HE DARED ATTACK THE HOLY HIERARCHY!
WELL, WELL-- A GREEN WHO DOESN'T YET KNOW HIS--PLACE! WE'LL SOON SET HIM STRAIGHT!
BE NOT OVERCONFIDENT, FACELESS ONE! THE GREEN GIANT'S BONDS ARE NO DETERRENT TO HIS AWESOME STRENGTH!
OUR ONLY HOLD OVER HIM IS THE HARM WE MIGHT INFLICT ON THE PRIESTESS SHOULD HE DARE ATTACK US!
SUDDENLY, THE DUNGEONS RING OUT WITH CRIES OF RECOGNITION...
K'REL! PRIESTESS!
HAVE YOU FOUND OUR CHAMPION-- WHO WILL END OUR PERSECUTION?!
YOUR "PERSECUTION" WILL END SOON ENOUGH, GREENS-- WHEN YOU SAMPLE THE PLEASURES OF THE PIT!
THE PIT! NO! NOT EVEN YOU REDS COULD BE SO CALLOUS, SO CRUEL!
WHAT IS THE PIT, K'REL?
AN ARENA, HULK! A PLACE OF SLAUGHTER AND BRUTAL SACRIFICE!
16

YOU MEAN YOU REDS ARE GOING TO FEED US TO THE LIONS LIKE THE EARLY CHRISTIANS?!
I KNOW NOT WHAT "LIONS" ARE, GREEN--
--BUT THE BEASTS WHO AWAIT YOU ARE HUNGRY INDEED!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES RELIGIOUS MEN?!
KERAKK!
L-LOOK OUT! HE'S TEARING THE BARS OFF HIS CAGE!!
OH, HULK, YOU ARE MIGHTY-- BUT THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU!
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO, K'REL? PRAY?
WILL PRAYING KEEP YOUR PEOPLE FROM BECOMING ANIMAL FODDER?
NOTHING CAN PREVENT THE INEVITABLE, GREEN!
=KOFF KOFF= GAS!
WASN'T READY FOR IT! INHALED TOO MUCH! GOING DOWN!
I'VE FAILED... THE GREENS!
17
BUT EVEN AS THE HULK FALLS, A CHEER GOES UP FROM EVERY CELL...
A CHAMPION IS DELIVERED UNTO US!
AFTER ALL THESE AGES, A GREEN LIVES WHO DARES TO DEFY THE PROSELYTES!
IF THE HULK CAN DO IT, SO CAN WE!

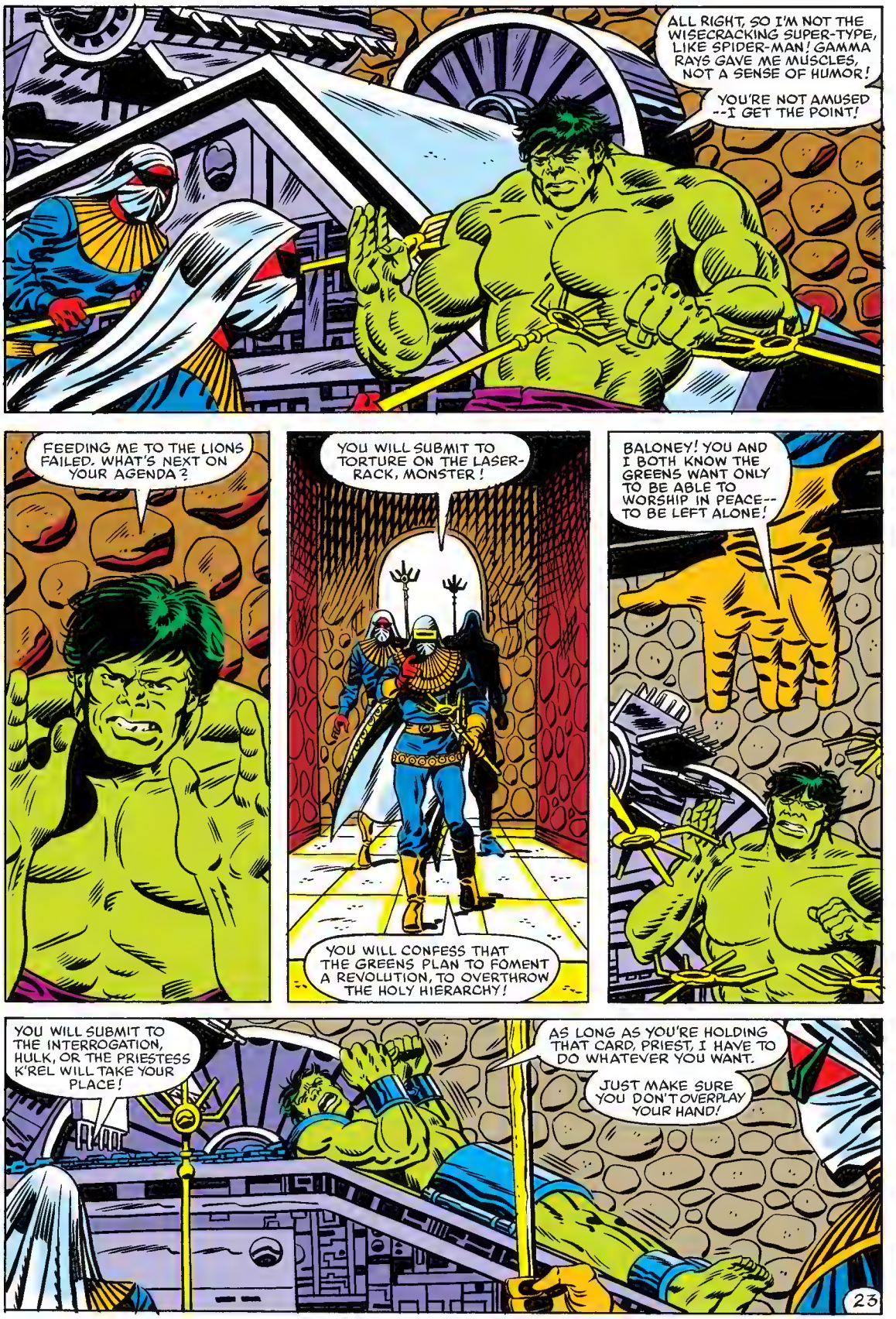
MY PEOPLE ARE RIGHT, PRIEST! OUR RELIGION TEACHES US TO BE PASSIVE, PEACEFUL PEOPLE! YOU REDS HAVE CAPITALIZED ON THAT BY STRIKING AT US--
--SECURE IN THE BELIEF THAT OUR FAITH ENFEEBLES US AND PREVENTS US FROM STRIKING BACK!
BUT THE HULK IS TEACHING US BY EXAMPLE THAT ONE CAN BOTH TREASURE PEACE...AND FIGHT TO SURVIVE! THOUGH YOU BEAT HIM DOWN--
--HE HAS ALREADY BECOME OUR CHAMPION BECAUSE HE HAS TAUGHT US HOW TO RESIST!
SUBDUE HER!
CAGE HER--AND CAGE THE SLEEPING BRUTE! YOUR CHAMPION, IS HE?
THEN LET HIM LEAD YOU IN YOUR NEW-FOUND RESISTANCE, GREEN! BUT I WOULDN'T ABANDON PRAYING--NOT JUST YET!
FOR ONLY PRAYER CAN SAVE YOU, IF ANYTHING CAN--
--WHEN ON THE MORROW YOU MEET YOUR MAKER ON THE SUN-SCORCHED SANDS OF... THE PIT!
18

THROUGH A THROBBING HEADACHE, THE INCREDIBLE HULK GREETS THE NEXT DAY. THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS HAVE NOT YET WORN OFF WHEN HE AND THE GREENS ARE HERDED FROM THE DANK, DARK DUNGEONS...
...AND OUT INTO THE BLAZING, BLISTERING SUN THAT BAKES THE STEAMING SAND OF A VAST ARENA. HE COULD EASILY SNAP HIS SHACKLES AND LEAP AWAY.
BUT WHERE WOULD HE GO? EARTH IS COUNTLESS LIGHT-YEARS DISTANT. THE RED POPULACE OF THIS WORLD IS EVERYWHERE AND HOSTILE TO HIM...
...AND, BY ESCAPING, HE WOULD BE DOOMING THOSE GREENS WHO LOOK TO HIM AS THEIR SAVIOR.
HE DOES NOT SEE HIMSELF AS THEY SEE HIM, AS THEIR CHAMPION...
...BUT HE WILL NOT ABANDON THEM NOW!
THE INFIDELS ARE ASSEMBLED!
LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!
19

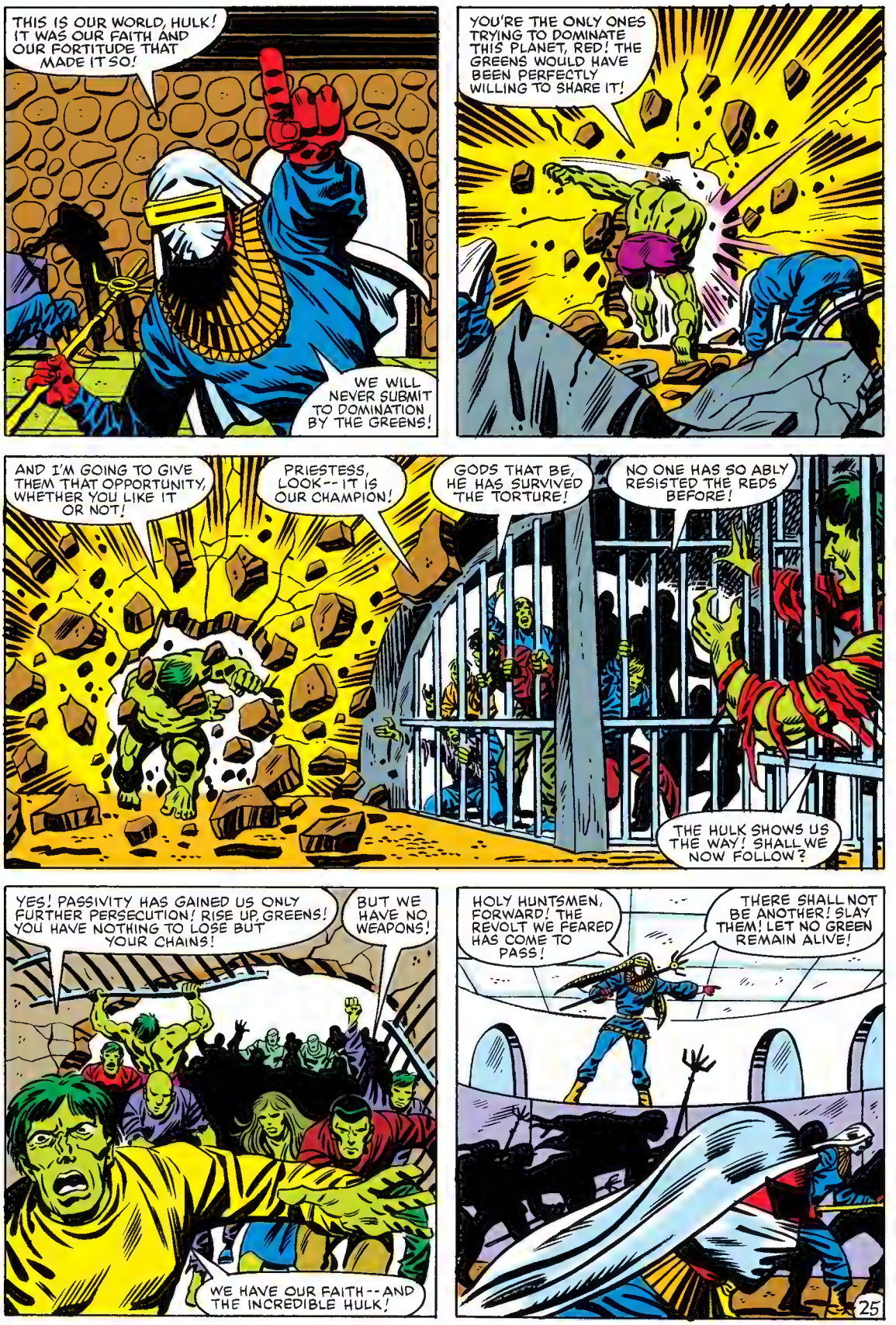
FESTIVITIES? BY WHAT FANTASTIC STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION CAN THE SIGHT OF A SCREAMING SQUADRON OF SAVAGE PROSELYTE CAVALRY, BEARING DOWN ON A HUDDLED HORDE OF HELPLESS GREENS, BE CONSIDERED FESTIVE?
NEVERTHELESS, AN EXULTANT CHEER GOES UP FROM THE CRIMSON CROWD, AND WAGERS ARE LAID AGAINST HOW LONG THE GREENS WILL SURVIVE.
EVERYONE, STAND FAST BEHIND ME!
ALL WAGERS ARE OFF, HOWEVER, ONCE THE INCREDIBLE HULK ENTERS THE LISTS!
WHAT KIND OF FANATICS ARE YOU, THAT YOU'D SLAUGHTER HELPLESS HUNDREDS WITH HOLY HYMNS UPON YOUR LIPS!?!
IS THERE NO ROOM IN YOUR RELIGION FOR HUMANITY? CAN'T YOUR FAITH BE TEMPERED WITH TOLERANCE?
OR MUST YOU BE MADE TO SEE THAT THE GREEN-SKINNED CO-INHABITANTS OF YOUR PLANET--
--HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO LIVE AS YOU?!
YOU ARE OUR CHAMPION, INDEED!
YES, K'REL --I GUESS I AM!
20

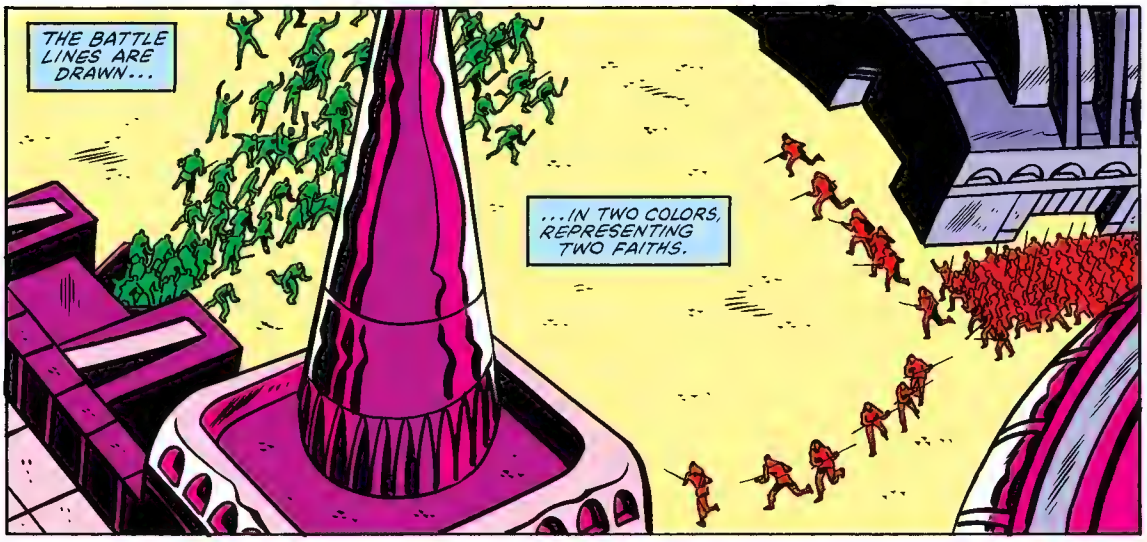

THE GREENS' CHAMPION DECIMATES OUR CAVALRY! RISK NO MORE PRIESTS!
SEND IN THE DRAGGOTHS!
SLAVERING AND SHRIEKING, THE ALIEN BRUTES BOLT INTO THE ARENA!
PREVIOUSLY, THEY HAVE BEEN GUIDED TO THEIR PREY BY THE SCENT OF FEAR.
TODAY THEY ARE MET WITH COURAGE.
UNLIKE DANIEL, I CAN'T CALM YOUR RAGE WITH FAITH, BEASTIES--
--SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE MY FISTS!
21

THE GREEN GARGANTUA GIVES THOSE HE DEFENDS COURAGE!
WE DARE NOT LET THE HULK'S EXAMPLE INCITE A GREATER INSURRECTION!
STOP THE GAMES! WE'LL BREAK THE GREENS' CHAMPION IN OTHER WAYS!
HMMM, LOOKS LIKE THIS PARTY'S OVER. I GUESS THE REDS DECIDED TO CALL IT OFF BEFORE I MADE THEM LOOK LIKE LOSERS.
OUT OF THE PIT, GROTESQUE ONE!
THE MOB IS DISGRUNTLED!
DISPERSE THEM!
WHY? ARE YOU AFRAID TO LET THEM SEE THAT THEIR 'FAITH' ISN'T AS INVINCIBLE AS THEY THOUGHT?
OH, HULK, I FEAR THAT EVEN GREATER TRIALS AWAIT US!
INDEED.
NICE DUNGEON YOU REDS HAVE HERE. WHO'S YOUR INTERIOR DESIGNER? BELA LUGOSI?
22

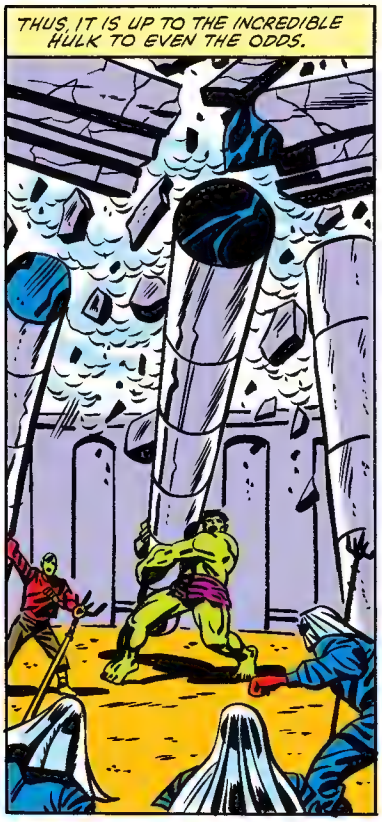

ALL RIGHT, SO I'M NOT THE WISECRACKING SUPER-TYPE, LIKE SPIDER-MAN! GAMMA RAYS GAVE ME MUSCLES, NOT A SENSE OF HUMOR!
YOU'RE NOT AMUSED --I GET THE POINT!
FEEDING ME TO THE LIONS FAILED. WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR AGENDA?
YOU WILL SUBMIT TO TORTURE ON THE LASER-RACK, MONSTER!
YOU WILL CONFESS THAT THE GREENS PLAN TO FOMENT A REVOLUTION, TO OVERTHROW THE HOLY HIERARCHY!
BALONEY! YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THE GREENS WANT ONLY TO BE ABLE TO WORSHIP IN PEACE-- TO BE LEFT ALONE!
YOU WILL SUBMIT TO THE INTERROGATION, HULK, OR THE PRIESTESS K'REL WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HOLDING THAT CARD, PRIEST, I HAVE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T OVERPLAY YOUR HAND!
23

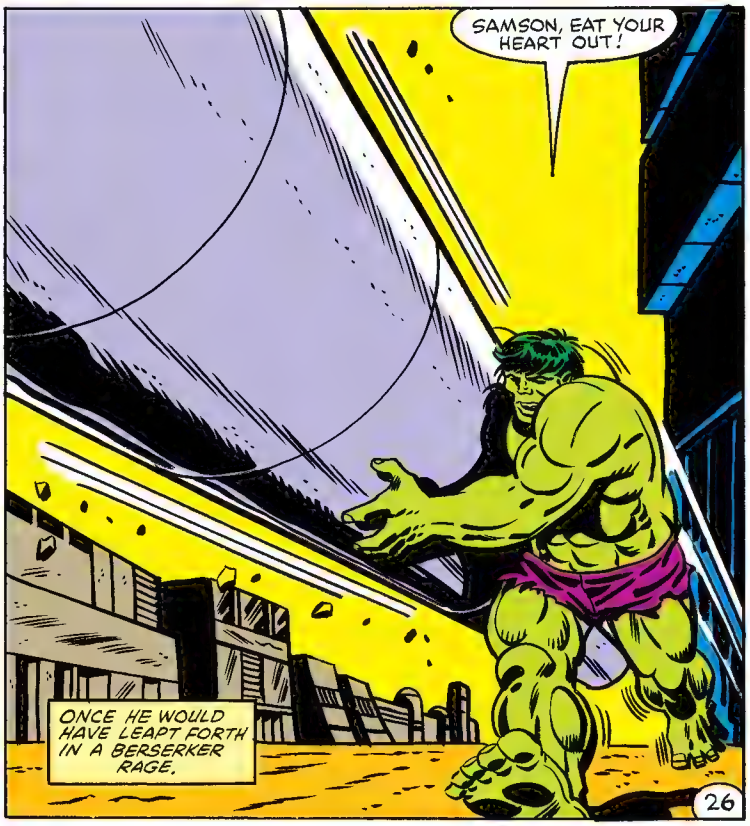
THE HULK SUBMITS, BEARING AS MUCH PAIN AS HE IS ABLE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER MORTAL COULD WITHSTAND.
THIS IS NO GOOD! IF I DIE, THE GREENS WILL BE NO BETTER OFF THAN THEY ARE NOW!
MAYBE WORSE SINCE THE HOPES I KINDLED IN THEM WILL BE DASHED!
IF I'M THEIR CHAMPION, I'D BETTER START DOING WHATEVER IT IS CHAMPIONS DO!
SNAP
SNAK
YOU WANTED A CONFESSION, PRIESTS? ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE!
I DON'T LIKE YOU! I DON'T LIKE YOUR RELIGION! I DON'T LIKE YOUR "STAR CHAMBER" TACTICS!
AND, MOST OF ALL, I DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ALLOWED TO CARRY OUT YOUR PERSECUTIONS IN SECRECY AND DARKNESS!
LET'S LET SOME LIGHT IN ON THE PROCEEDINGS, SHALL WE?
KRASH
24


THIS IS OUR WORLD, HULK! IT WAS OUR FAITH AND OUR FORTITUDE THAT MADE IT SO!
WE WILL NEVER SUBMIT TO DOMINATION BY THE GREENS!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES TRYING TO DOMINATE THIS PLANET, RED! THE GREENS WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY WILLING TO SHARE IT!
AND I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM THAT OPPORTUNITY, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!
PRIESTESS, LOOK-- IT IS OUR CHAMPION!
GODS THAT BE, HE HAS SURVIVED THE TORTURE!
NO ONE HAS SO ABLY RESISTED THE REDS BEFORE!
THE HULK SHOWS US THE WAY! SHALL WE NOW FOLLOW?
YES! PASSIVITY HAS GAINED US ONLY FURTHER PERSECUTION! RISE UP, GREENS! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS!
BUT WE HAVE NO WEAPONS!
WE HAVE OUR FAITH--AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
HOLY HUNTSMEN, FORWARD! THE REVOLT WE FEARED HAS COME TO PASS!
THERE SHALL NOT BE ANOTHER! SLAY THEM! LET NO GREEN REMAIN ALIVE!
25


THE BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN...
...IN TWO COLORS, REPRESENTING TWO FAITHS.

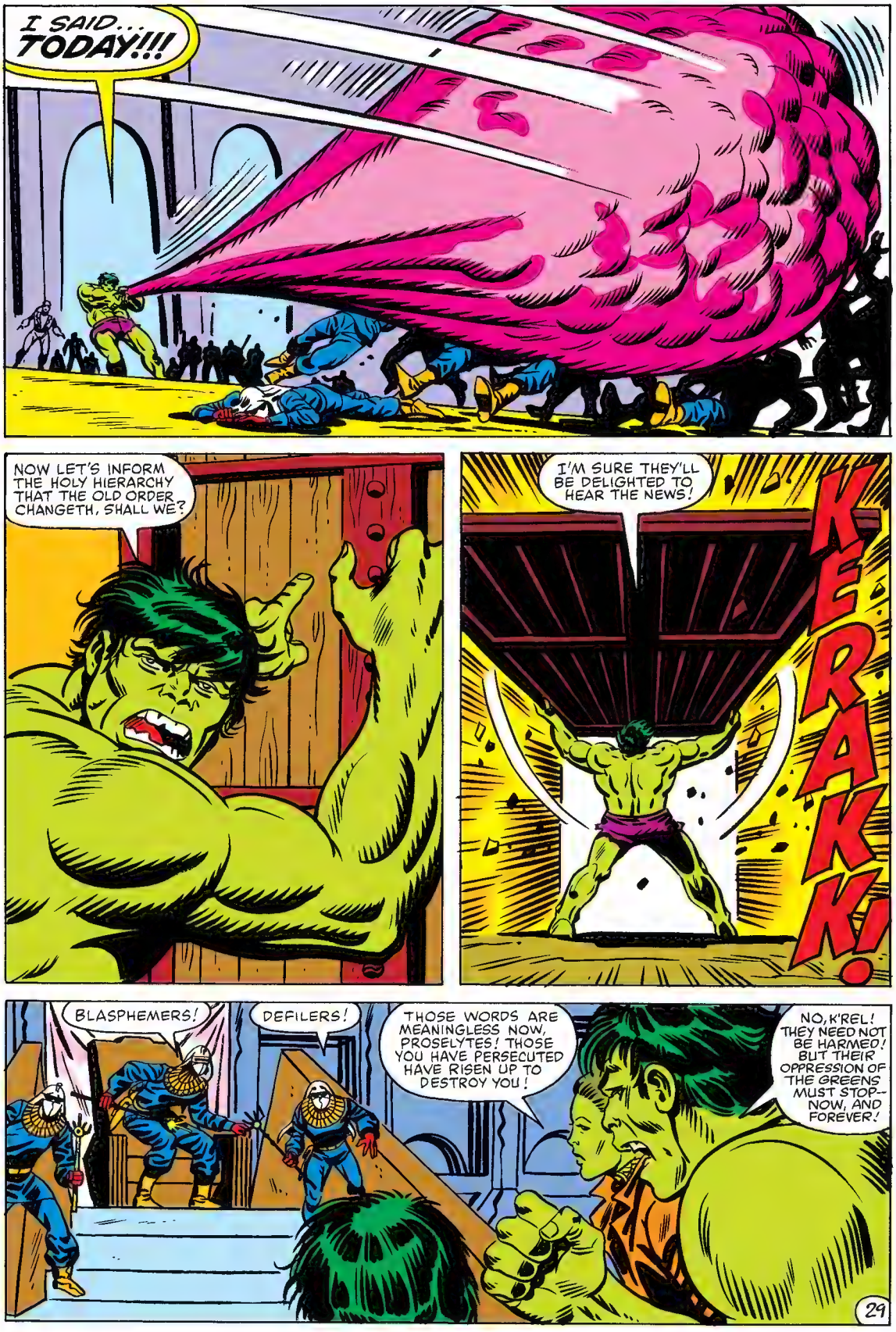
FOR THE REDS, FIGHTING COMES NATURALLY. THEY HAVE BEEN SUPPRESSING OTHERS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
WARFARE IS AN ART THAT THE OUTNUMBERED GREENS NEVER HAD MUCH OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN.


THUS, IT IS UP TO THE INCREDIBLE HULK TO EVEN THE ODDS.

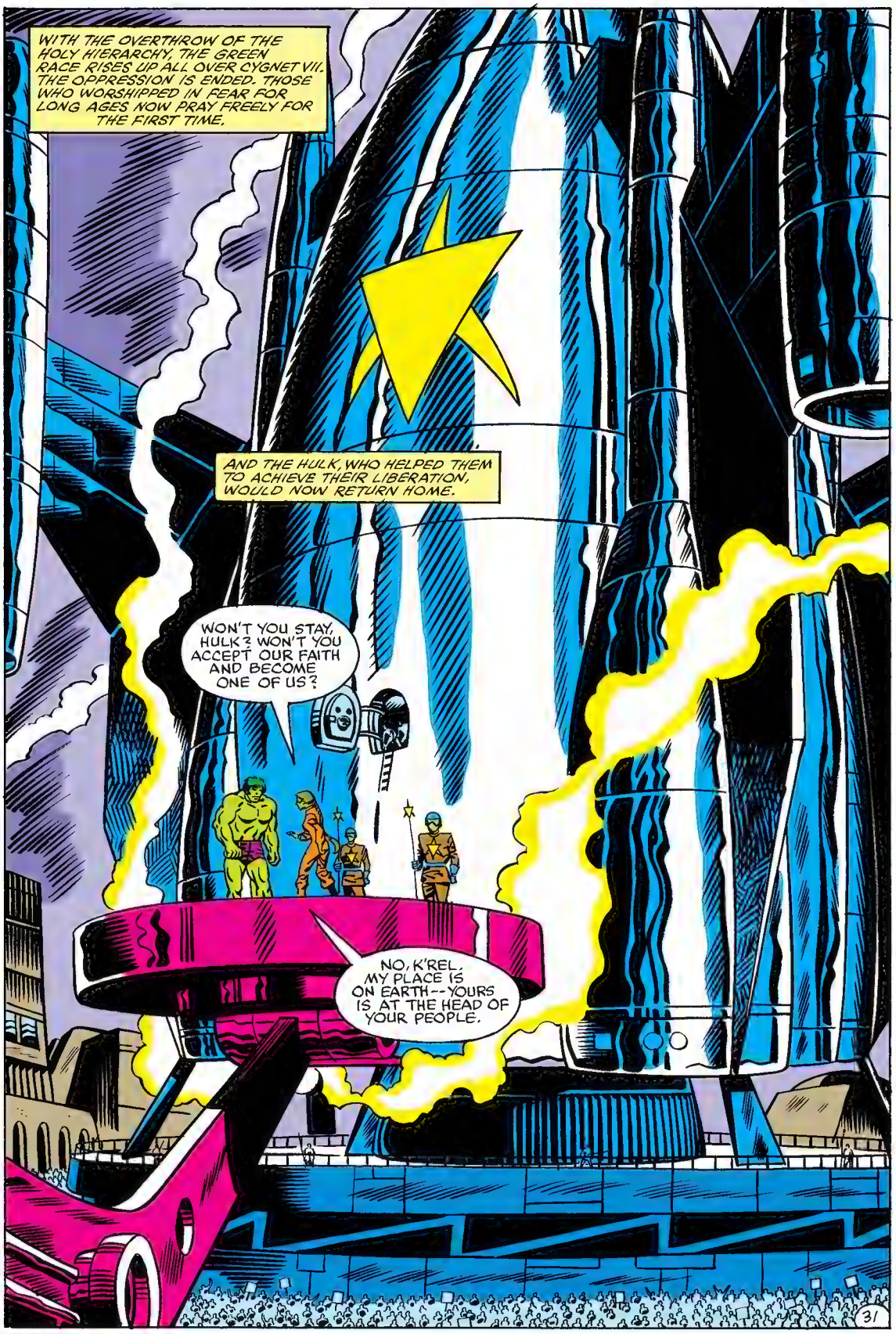

SAMSON, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!
ONCE HE WOULD HAVE LEAPT FORTH IN A BERSERKER RAGE.
26

NOW HE IS ENRAGED, YES-- MAD, YES... BUT THERE IS METHOD IN HIS MADNESS. THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER GOVERNS THE POWER OF THE HULK.
IN THE END, HOWEVER, ISN'T THE RESULT ESSENTIALLY THE SAME?
THE PROSELYTES FALL LIKE GRAIN BEFORE A SCYTHE!
THE WAY IS CLEAR TO THE CATHEDRAL!
ONWARD, GREENS-- TO THE SEAT OF OUR OPPRESSION!
DEATH TO THE HOLY HIERARCHY!
27

THE CATHEDRAL RISES FROM THE TERRACED STREETS, MORE LIKE A FORTRESS THAN A MONUMENT TO FAITH.
ITS MASSIVE DOORS OFFER NO MORE RESISTANCE TO THE MIGHTY MUSCLES OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK THAN A BLADE OF GRASS OFFERS TO A RAGING HURRICANE.
THE GREENS HAVE BREACHED OUR SACRED SANCTUARY!
DESTROY THE DEFILERS!
THE GREENS ARE UNARMED. THE REDS ARE NOT. BLASTERS BREAK BONES, BOIL BLOOD.
MY PEOPLE FALTER! MY PEOPLE DIE! IF WE GIVE GROUND NOW, OUR CAUSE IS LOST FOREVER!
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO FACE THE PIT OR THE RACK AGAIN, K'REL--
--BECAUSE THE KILLING STOPS TODAY!
28


I SAID... TODAY!!!
NOW LET'S INFORM THE HOLY HIERARCHY THAT THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH, SHALL WE?
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THE NEWS!
KRAK!
BLASPHEMERS!
DEFILERS!
THOSE WORDS ARE MEANINGLESS NOW, PROSELYTES! THOSE YOU HAVE PERSECUTED HAVE RISEN UP TO DESTROY YOU!
NO, K'REL! THEY NEED NOT BE HARMED! BUT THEIR OPPRESSION OF THE GREENS MUST STOP-- NOW, AND FOREVER!
29

DO YOU THINK US FOOLS, MAN OF EARTH, THAT WE SHOULD BELIEVE THE GREENS WOULD SPARE OUR LIVES ANY MORE THAN WE WOULD HAVE SPARED THEIRS?
IN A HOLY WAR, NO QUARTER IS ASKED, AND NONE IS GIVEN!
RIGHTEOUSNESS CAN ONLY BE CLAIMED BY THE WINNER, IS THAT IT? HE WHO LOSES IS DISCREDITED IN THE EYES OF GOD, RIGHT?
WE'VE HAD WARS LIKE YOURS ON EARTH, PRIEST! THE WINNERS WOULD TRY TO PROVE HOW HOLY THEY WERE BY EXTERMINATING THE LOSERS!
THEY WON PYRRHIC VICTORIES!
YOU SEE, YOU CAN KILL PEOPLE, PRIEST--BUT YOU CAN'T WIPE OUT FAITH!
IT ALWAYS RESURFACES, SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE--
--AND, IN THE END, THOSE WHO BELIEVE WILL ALWAYS WIN!
THE HOLY HIERARCHY IS OVERTHROWN, GREENS!
THE RULE OF THE PROSELYTES IS ENDED!
HALLELUJAH! HAIL, HULK!
30


WITH THE OVERTHROW OF THE HOLY HIERARCHY, THE GREEN RACE RISES UP ALL OVER CYGNET VII. THE OPPRESSION IS ENDED. THOSE WHO WORSHIPPED IN FEAR FOR LONG AGES NOW PRAY FREELY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
AND THE HULK, WHO HELPED THEM TO ACHIEVE THEIR LIBERATION, WOULD NOW RETURN HOME.
WON'T YOU STAY, HULK? WON'T YOU ACCEPT OUR FAITH AND BECOME ONE OF US?
NO, K'REL, MY PLACE IS ON EARTH--YOURS IS AT THE HEAD OF YOUR PEOPLE.
31

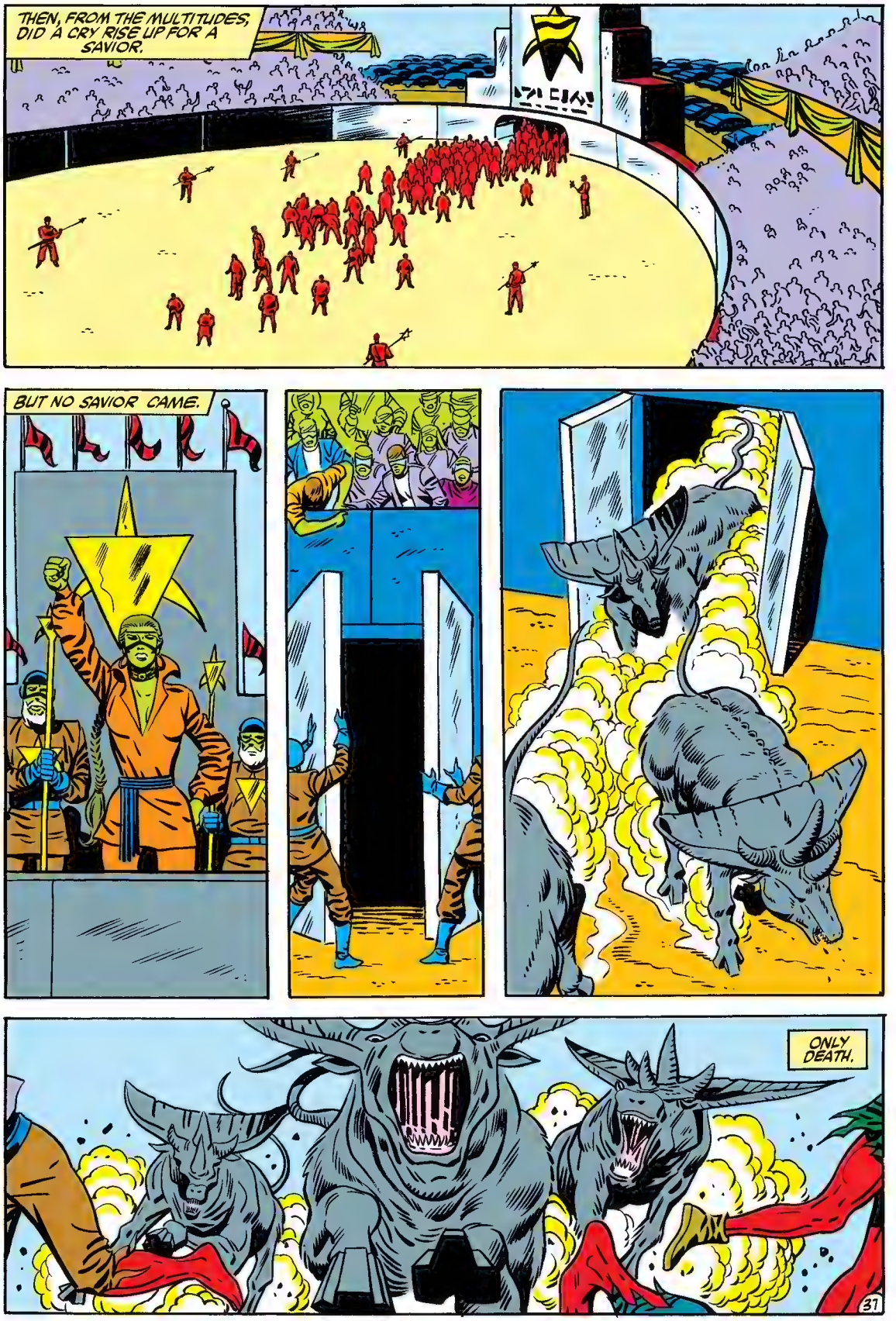
BUT MY PEOPLE REGARD YOU AS THEIR CHAMPION, THEIR SAVIOR.
I'M NO ONE'S MESSIAH, K'REL. I'M JUST A MAN, MIGHTIER THAN MOST--
--WHO DISLIKES OPPRESSION AND POSSESSES THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
AND ALTHOUGH I FOUGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PROFESS YOUR FAITH, I CAN'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND IT.
I'LL TEACH YOU...
AND I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN, BUT I LEFT BEHIND A LIFE TO WHICH I MUST RETURN.
SO, I'M AFRAID I MUST GO.
VERY WELL. BUT BE WARNED, THIS SHIP HAS ONLY ENOUGH FUEL TO MAKE THE JOURNEY TO EARTH. ONCE LAUNCHED IT MAY NEVER RETURN.
I UNDERSTAND, K'REL.
IN THE MEANTIME, AS YOUR RACE'S SPIRITUAL LEADER, GUIDE THEIR DESTINY WISELY.
CULTIVATE CHARITY IN THEIR HEARTS.
TEACH THEM THE WAY OF MERCY.
THE SMALL STARSHIP LIFTS OFF, CARRYING THE INCREDIBLE HULK HOME.
VROAR
IN ITS WAKE, THE GENTLE FEATURES OF THE GREEN PRIESTESS UNDERGO A HARSH AND FRIGHTENING CHANGE.
MERCY?
32

MEANWHILE, ALREADY FAR FROM CYGNET VII...
...THE HULK'S JOURNEY HOME THROUGH HYPER-SPACE BEGINS.
FOR YEARS I'VE CURSED THE GAMMA RAYS THAT TURNED ME INTO THE INCREDIBLE HULK--DAMNED THE POWER THAT MADE MEN CALL ME... MONSTER.
BUT TODAY A NEW DAWN BURST FORTH ON CYGNET VII--A NEW AGE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE. OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING.
AND IT WAS THE POWER OF THE HULK--MY POWER--THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE!
33

THE SHIP PILOTS ITSELF. IT'S FIXED ON EARTH'S COORDINATES. IT WILL TAKE ME HOME.
THUS, I NEED NOT REMAIN ON THE BRIDGE...
...BUT CAN TAKE A LAST LOOK BACK AT CYGNET VII.
WHEN LAST HE DONNED THE EDUCATOR, HE WAS A CAPTIVE, BOUND FOR HIS CAPTOR'S PLANET IN CHAINS.
NOW THE SAVIOR OF CYGNET VII SLIPS THE HELMET ON OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.
EDUCATOR, I WOULD MONITOR YOUR WORLD.
AFFIRMATIVE.
TIME FRAME: THE PRESENT. BEHOLD... CYGNET VII!
NO! IT CAN'T BE! NO!
34

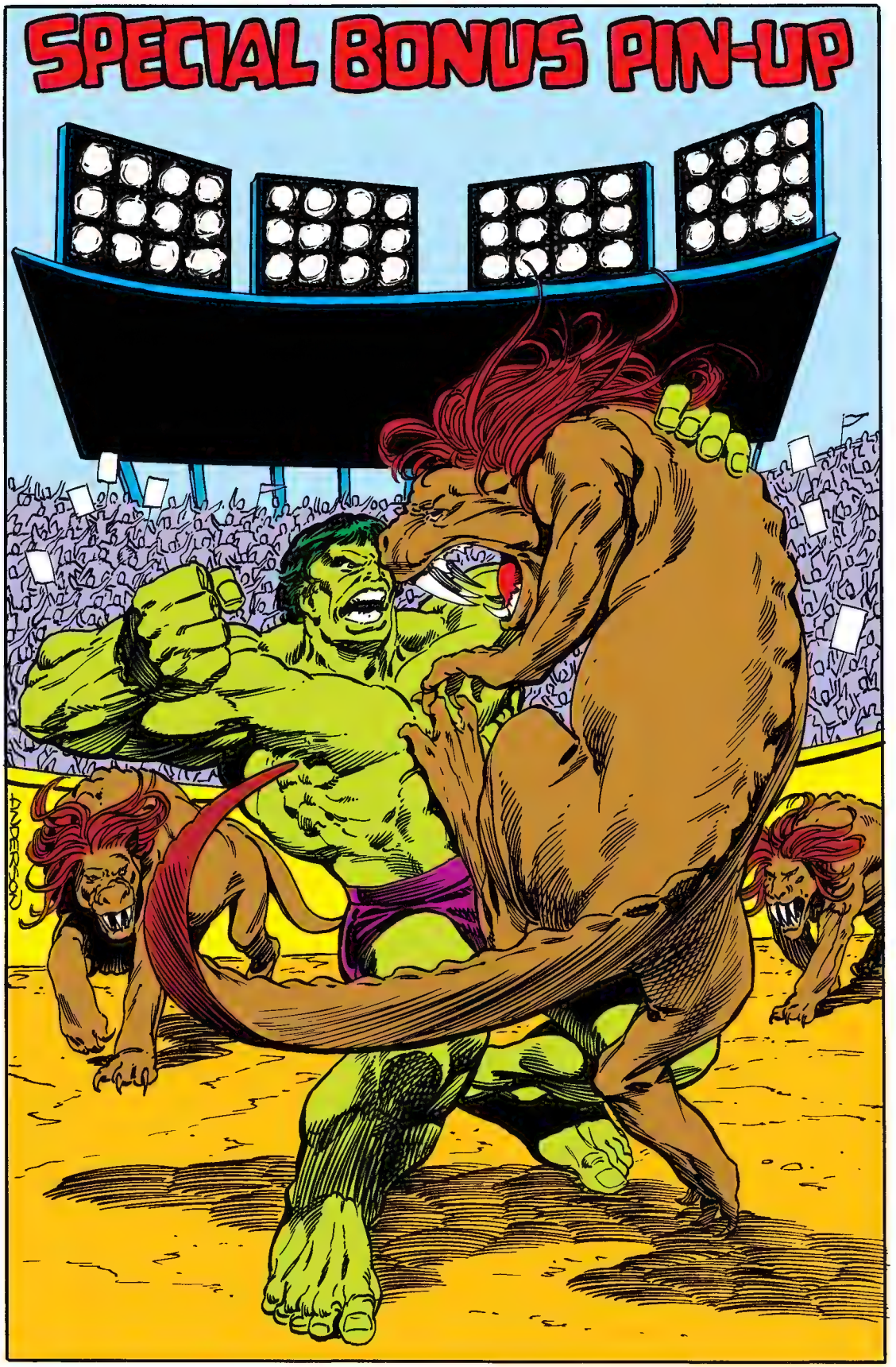
WELL MIGHT THE HULK CRY OUT IN PROTEST. FOR A NEW HOLY HIERARCHY, IT SEEMS, NOW RULES ON CYGNET VII.
THE PROSELYTES ARE ROUNDED UP, PRIESTESS!
CALL THEM THAT NO MORE, PRIEST! THEY HAVE FALLEN FROM POWER!
WE ARE THE PROSELYTES NOW, AND IT IS OUR RELIGION THAT WILL BE PROCLAIMED ON CYGNET VII.
LET THOSE WITHOUT FAITH PERISH!
AND SO THE PERSECUTION BEGINS ANEW.
AVERT YOUR EYES FROM THE PRIESTESS K'REL, RED DOG!
LET NOT YOUR VILE GAZE POLLUTE THE PERSONS OF THE HOLY HIERARCHY!
DIRTY REDS! WHERE IS YOUR FAITH TO PROTECT YOU NOW?
STONE THEM!
SOME OF OUR PEOPLE MURMUR, K'REL. THEY RECALL THAT THE LAST WORDS OF OUR SAVIOR WERE...
TO BE MERCIFUL. BUT OUR SAVIOR HAS DEPARTED, AND ONLY I CAN RIGHTLY INTERPRET HIS WORDS.
LET THE PUNISHMENT OF THE REDS PERSIST!
35

AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT THOSE HARDSHIPS ONCE HEAPED UPON THE GREEN RACE OF CYGNET VII NOW BEFELL THE REDS.
THE WHEEL HAD TURNED FULL CIRCLE.
AND LO, THE WORLD DID WEEP.
36


THEN, FROM THE MULTITUDES, DID A CRY RISE UP FOR A SAVIOR.
BUT NO SAVIOR CAME.
ONLY DEATH.
31

AND A NEW FAITH WAS BORN ON CYGNET VII.
REVENGE BECAME THEIR RELIGION, AND REPRESSION THEIR GOD.
AND THOSE THAT DID NOT PARTAKE OF THE GREENS' COMMUNION WINE...
...WERE WASHED AWAY IN RED RIVERS OF THEIR OWN BLOOD.
38

SOMEWHERE IN DISTANT SPACE, A SAVIOR WEEPS FOR CYGNET VII.
HIS TEARS FALL FOR A MERCY LOST...
...A PROMISE OF PEACE UNFULFILLED.
THE END


SPECIAL BONUS PIN-UP
ANDERSON

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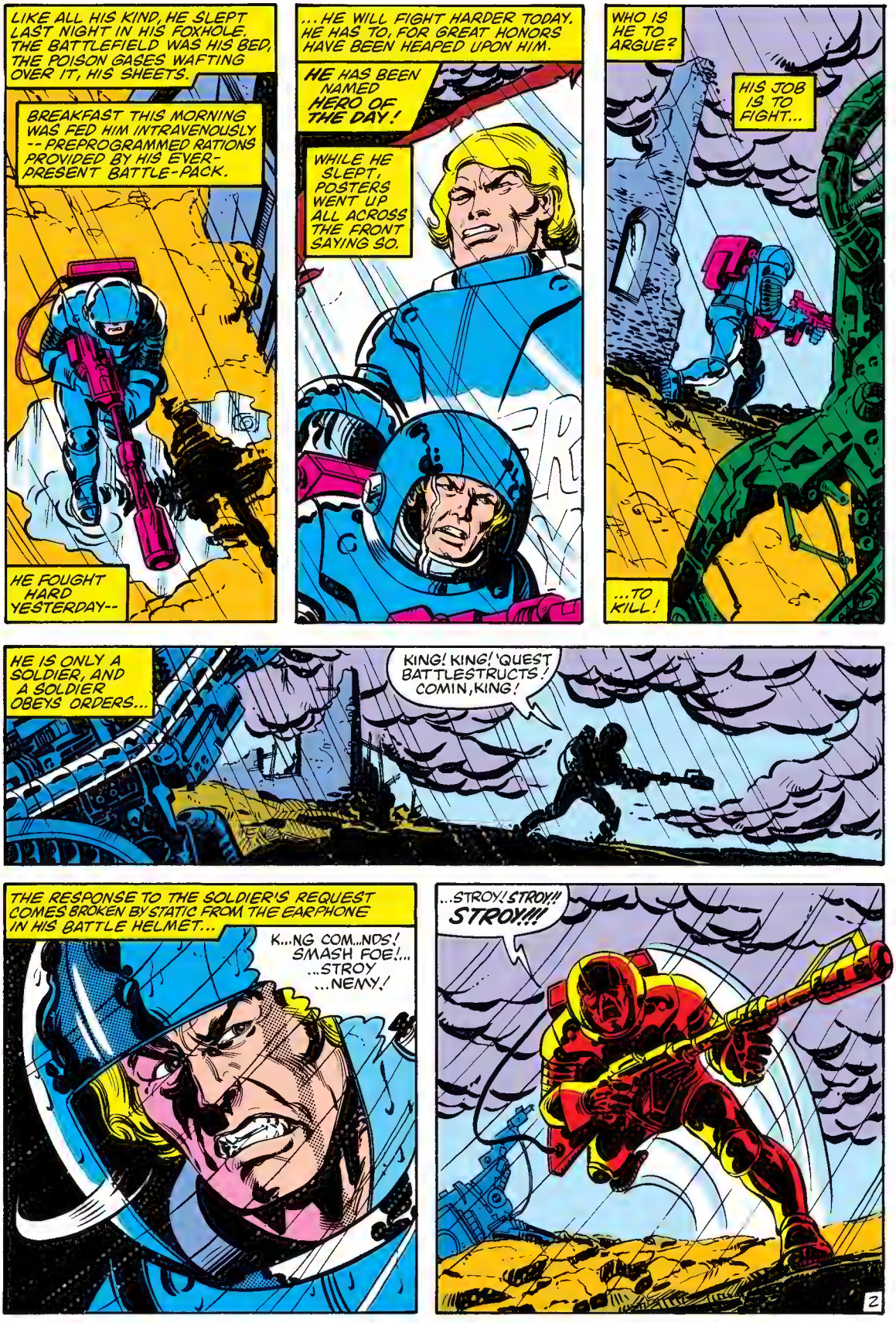
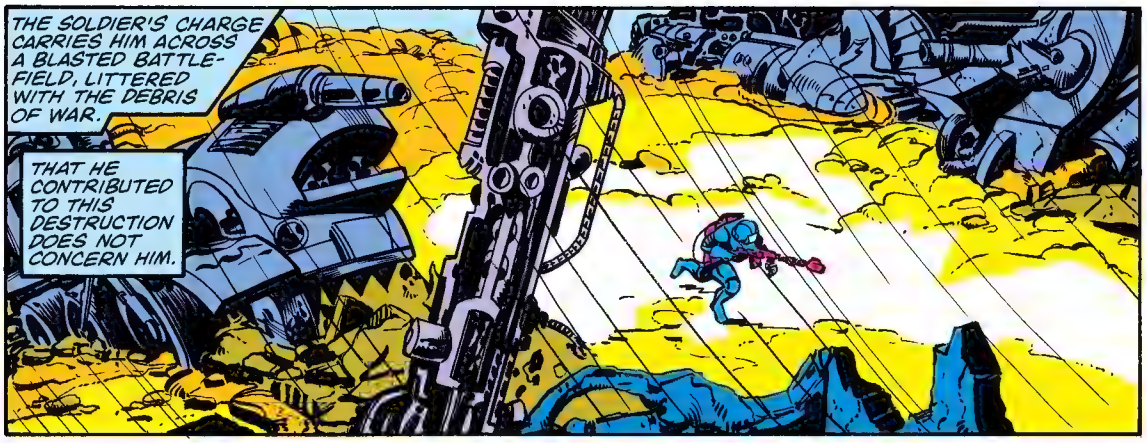
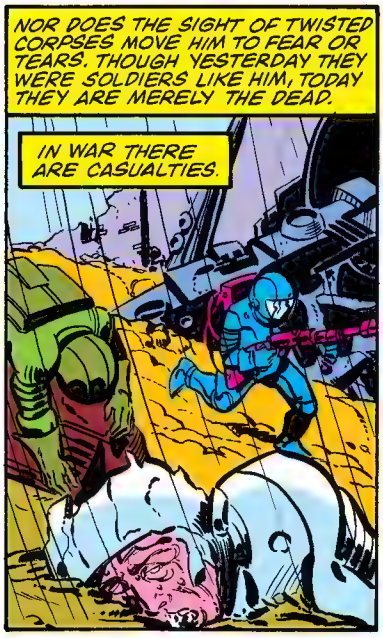
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
BILL MANTLO AUTHOR | SAL BUSCEMA & KIM DEMULDER ARTISTS | JIM NOVAK, LETTERS BOB SHAREN, COLORS | AL MILGROM EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER KANG
HERO
THIS IS THE 41ST CENTURY.
IT IS AN ERA CHARACTERIZED BY THE RELENTLESS, UNREMITTING RAVAGES OF WAR!
IT IS HIS ERA, THIS BATTLE-HARDENED, BATTLE-HONED, BATTLE-ARMORED BERSERKER.
IT IS HIS ERA...AND HE LOVES IT, FOR HE KNOWS NO OTHER LIFE.
CALL HIM FOOL, CALL HIM CANNON-FODDER, BUT IF YOU CALL HIM ANYTHING TO HIS FACE...
...CALL HIM--HERO!
HERO OF THE DAY
HERO OF THE DAY
1

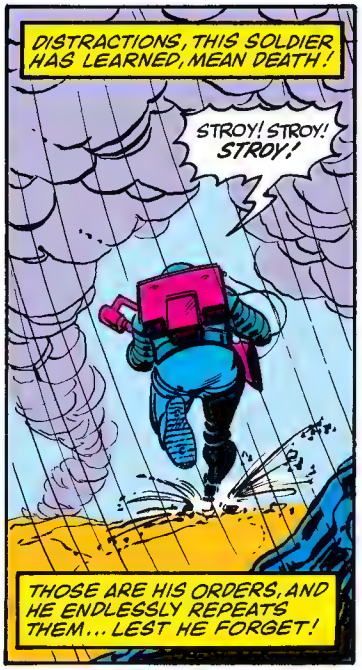
"Hero" adapated from the short story and teleplay "Soldier" by Harlan Ellison. "Solider" (original version) appeared in the Author's collection "From the Land of Fear," copyright © 1967 by Harlan Ellison. "Soldier" (television script version) was first televised over the American Broadcasting Company on September 19, 1964: Produced by United Artists-Daystar-Villa de Stefano for ABC, copyright © 1964 by Harlan Ellison. Adapted by arrangement of the Author and the Author's agent, Richard Curtis Associates, Inc., New York. All rights reserved.

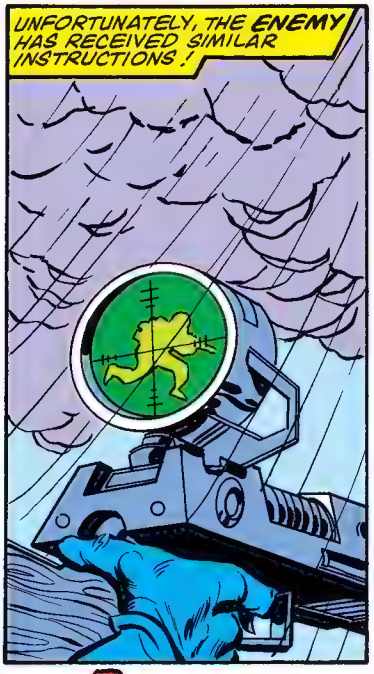

LIKE ALL HIS KIND, HE SLEPT LAST NIGHT IN HIS FOXHOLE. THE BATTLEFIELD WAS HIS BED, THE POISON GASES WAFTING OVER IT, HIS SHEETS.
BREAKFAST THIS MORNING WAS FED HIM INTRAVENOUSLY -- PREPROGRAMMED RATIONS PROVIDED BY HIS EVER-PRESENT BATTLE-PACK.
HE FOUGHT HARD YESTERDAY--
...HE WILL FIGHT HARDER TODAY. HE HAS TO, FOR GREAT HONORS HAVE BEEN HEAPED UPON HIM.
HE HAS BEEN NAMED HERO OF THE DAY!
WHILE HE SLEPT, POSTERS WENT UP ALL ACROSS THE FRONT SAYING SO.
WHO IS HE TO ARGUE?
HIS JOB IS TO FIGHT...
...TO KILL!
HE IS ONLY A SOLDIER, AND A SOLDIER OBEYS ORDERS...
KING! KING! 'QUEST BATTLESTRUCTS! COMIN, KING!
THE RESPONSE TO THE SOLDIER'S REQUEST COMES BROKEN BY STATIC FROM THE EARPHONE IN HIS BATTLE HELMET...
K...NG COM...NDS! SMASH FOE!... ...STROY ...NEMY./
...STROY! STROY!! STROY!!!
2

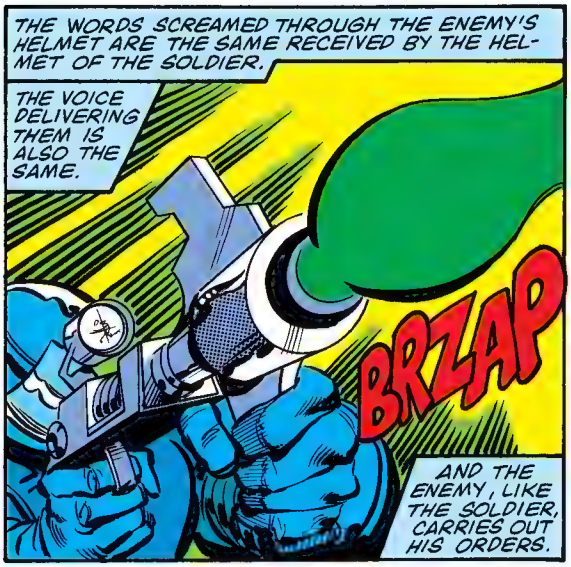

THE SOLDIER'S CHARGE CARRIES HIM ACROSS A BLASTED BATTLE-FIELD, LITTERED WITH THE DEBRIS OF WAR.
THAT HE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DESTRUCTION DOES NOT CONCERN HIM.

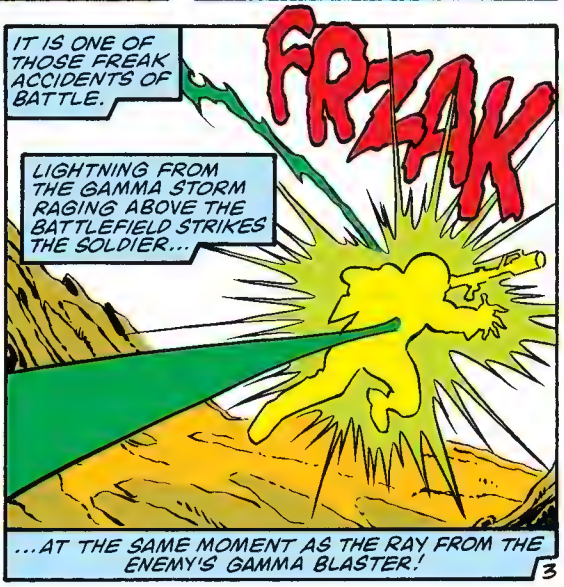

NOR DOES THE SIGHT OF TWISTED CORPSES MOVE HIM TO FEAR OR TEARS. THOUGH YESTERDAY THEY WERE SOLDIERS LIKE HIM, TODAY THEY ARE MERELY THE DEAD.
IN WAR THERE ARE CASUALTIES.

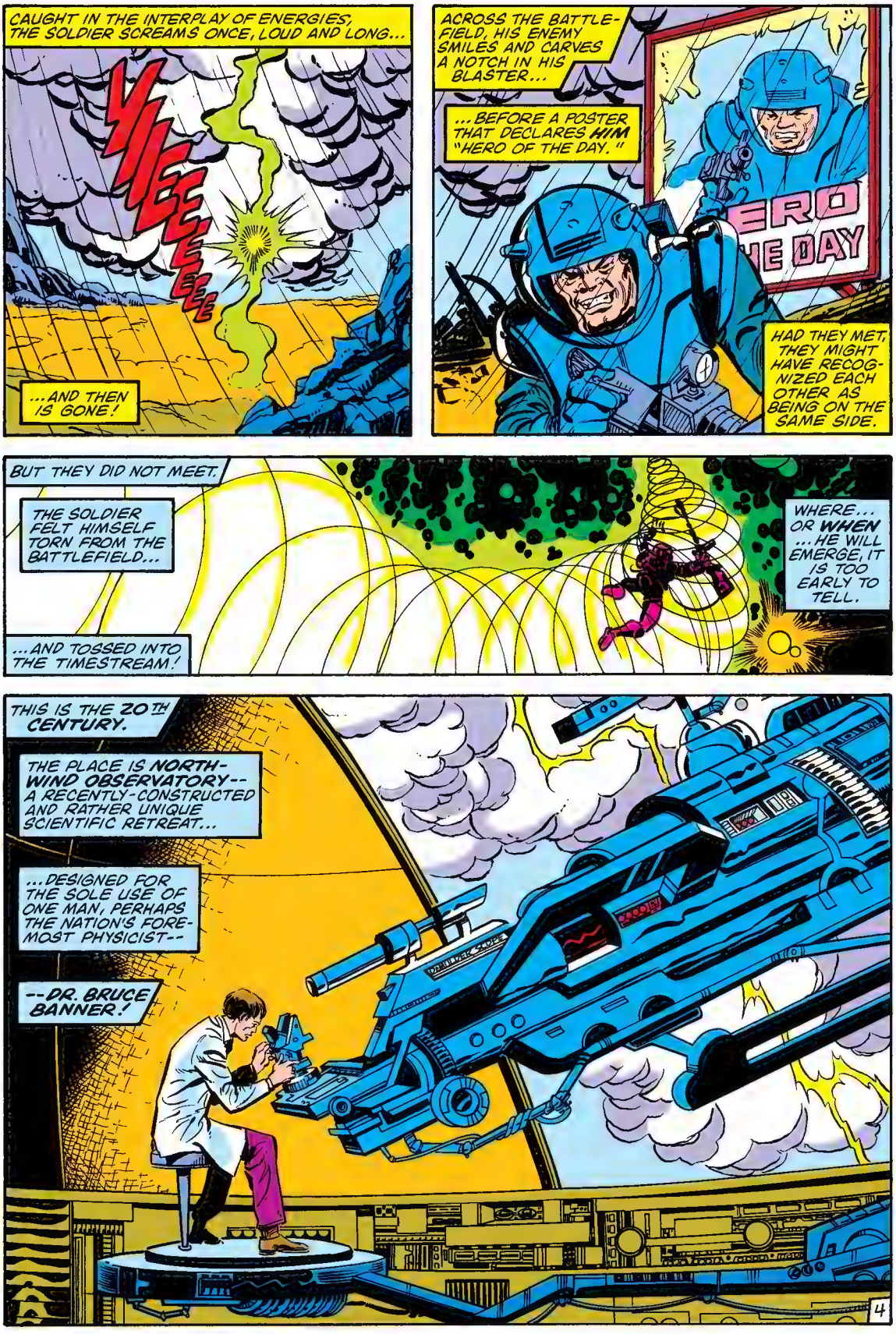
IT DOES NOT PAY TO DWELL ON SUCH THINGS.

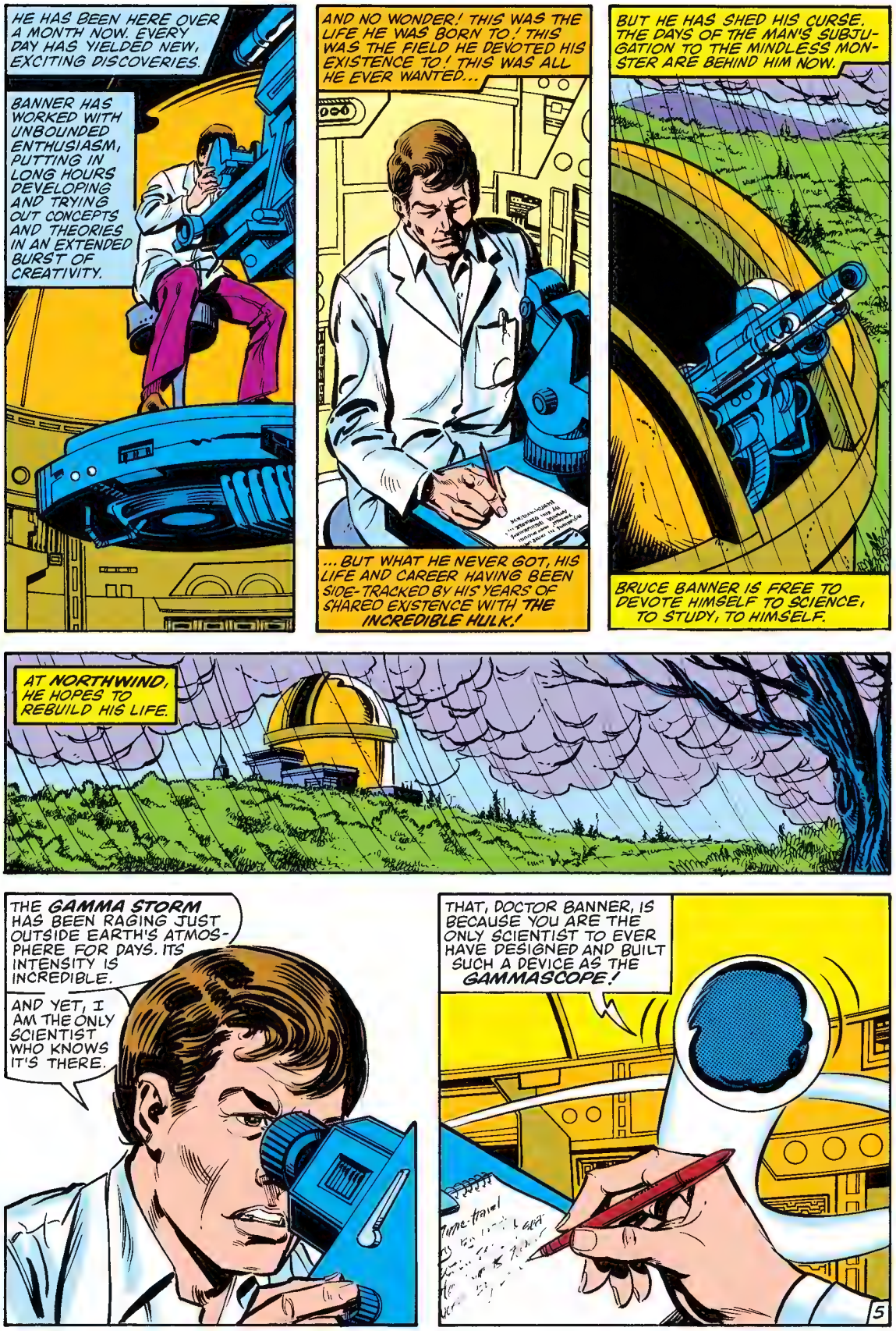

DISTRACTIONS, THIS SOLDIER HAS LEARNED, MEAN DEATH!
STROY! STROY! STROY!
THOSE ARE HIS ORDERS, AND HE ENDLESSLY REPEATS THEM... LEST HE FORGET!



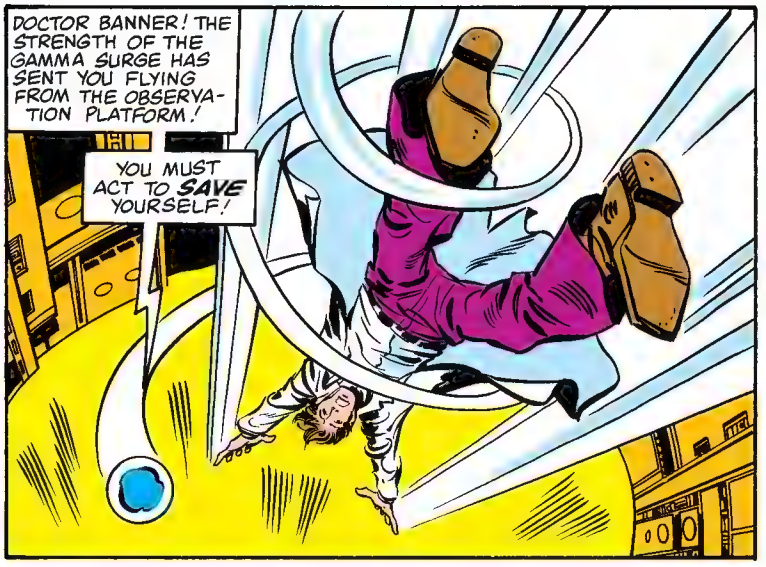

THE WORDS SCREAMED THROUGH THE ENEMY'S HELMET ARE THE SAME RECEIVED BY THE HELMET OF THE SOLDIER.
THE VOICE DELIVERING THEM IS ALSO THE SAME.
BRZAP
AND THE ENEMY, LIKE THE SOLDIER, CARRIES OUT HIS ORDERS.

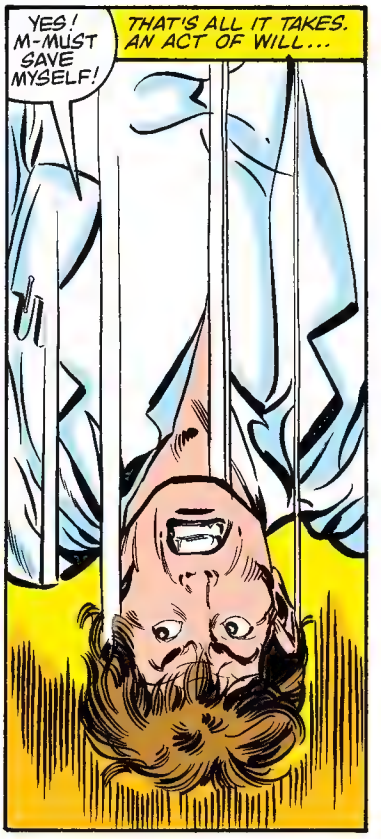

IT IS ONE OF THOSE FREAK ACCIDENTS OF BATTLE.
LIGHTNING FROM THE GAMMA STORM RAGING ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD STRIKES THE SOLDIER...
FR-EAK
...AT THE SAME MOMENT AS THE RAY FROM THE ENEMY'S GAMMA BLASTER!
3

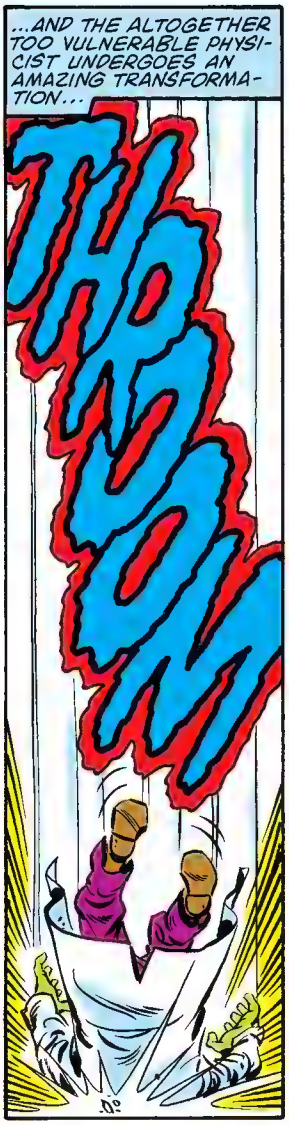

CAUGHT IN THE INTERPLAY OF ENERGIES, THE SOLDIER SCREAMS ONCE, LOUD AND LONG...
YIEEEEEEEE
...AND THEN IS GONE!
ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD, HIS ENEMY SMILES AND CARVES A NOTCH IN HIS BLASTER...
...BEFORE A POSTER THAT DECLARES HIM "HERO OF THE DAY."
HAD THEY MET, THEY MIGHT HAVE RECOGNIZED EACH OTHER AS BEING ON THE SAME SIDE.
BUT THEY DID NOT MEET.
THE SOLDIER FELT HIMSELF TORN FROM THE BATTLEFIELD...
...AND TOSSED INTO THE TIMESTREAM!
WHERE... OR WHEN ...HE WILL EMERGE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL.
THIS IS THE 20TH CENTURY.
THE PLACE IS NORTH-WIND OBSERVATORY-- A RECENTLY-CONSTRUCTED AND RATHER UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC RETREAT...
...DESIGNED FOR THE SOLE USE OF ONE MAN, PERHAPS THE NATION'S FOREMOST PHYSICIST--
--DR. BRUCE BANNER!
4

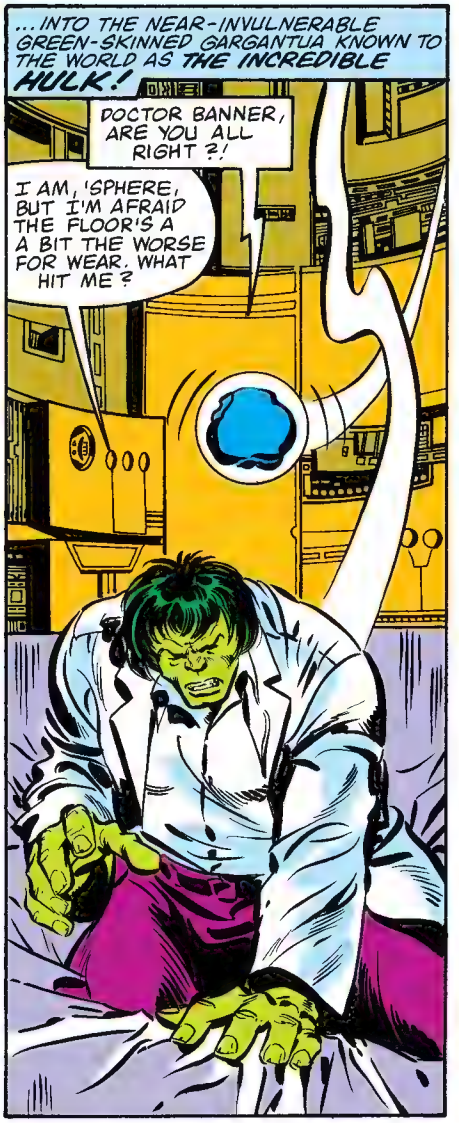

HE HAS BEEN HERE OVER A MONTH NOW. EVERY DAY HAS YIELDED NEW, EXCITING DISCOVERIES.
BANNER HAS WORKED WITH UNBOUNDED ENTHUSIASM, PUTTING IN LONG HOURS DEVELOPING AND TRYING OUT CONCEPTS AND THEORIES IN AN EXTENDED BURST OF CREATIVITY.
AND NO WONDER! THIS WAS THE LIFE HE WAS BORN TO! THIS WAS THE FIELD HE DEVOTED HIS EXISTENCE TO! THIS WAS ALL HE EVER WANTED...
...BUT WHAT HE NEVER GOT, HIS LIFE AND CAREER HAVING BEEN SIDE-TRACKED BY HIS YEARS OF SHARED EXISTENCE WITH THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
BUT HE HAS SHED HIS CURSE. THE DAYS OF THE MAN'S SUBJUGATION TO THE MINDLESS MONSTER ARE BEHIND HIM NOW.
BRUCE BANNER IS FREE TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO SCIENCE, TO STUDY, TO HIMSELF.
AT NORTHWIND, HE HOPES TO REBUILD HIS LIFE.
THE GAMMA STORM HAS BEEN RAGING JUST OUTSIDE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE FOR DAYS. ITS INTENSITY IS INCREDIBLE.
AND YET, I AM THE ONLY SCIENTIST WHO KNOWS IT'S THERE.
THAT, DOCTOR BANNER, IS BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONLY SCIENTIST TO EVER HAVE DESIGNED AND BUILT SUCH A DEVICE AS THE GAMMASCOPE!
Time-travel
5

WITH IT, YOU CAN DETECT AND OBSERVE GAMMA RAY ACTIVITY ALL ACROSS THE COSMOS--
--AND THUS BETTER PREDICT THE RAYS' EFFECT ON EARTH! A TRULY INNOVATIVE INVENTION!
MERELY A NECESSARY RESEARCH TOOL, RECORDA-SPHERE-- AS ARE YOU!
INSPIRED BY BEREET'S STAR EYE*, I DESIGNED YOU TO OBSERVE AND RECORD MY DAILY RESEARCH--A KIND OF MOBILE JOURNAL OF MY PROGRESS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE I'D ALSO PROGRAMMED YOU FOR FLATTERY!
YOU INVESTED ME WITH INTELLIGENCE, DOCTOR! I ASSUME YOU HAD A REASON!
YES, I... I WANTED COMPANY!
BUT LET'S GET BACK TO OBSERVING THE PHENOMENON RAGING ABOVE THE EARTH.
BUT, AS BRUCE BANNER PEERS INTO THE VIEWER...
FREEZRAKKK
WARNING! WARNING! GAMMA-SURGE!
6

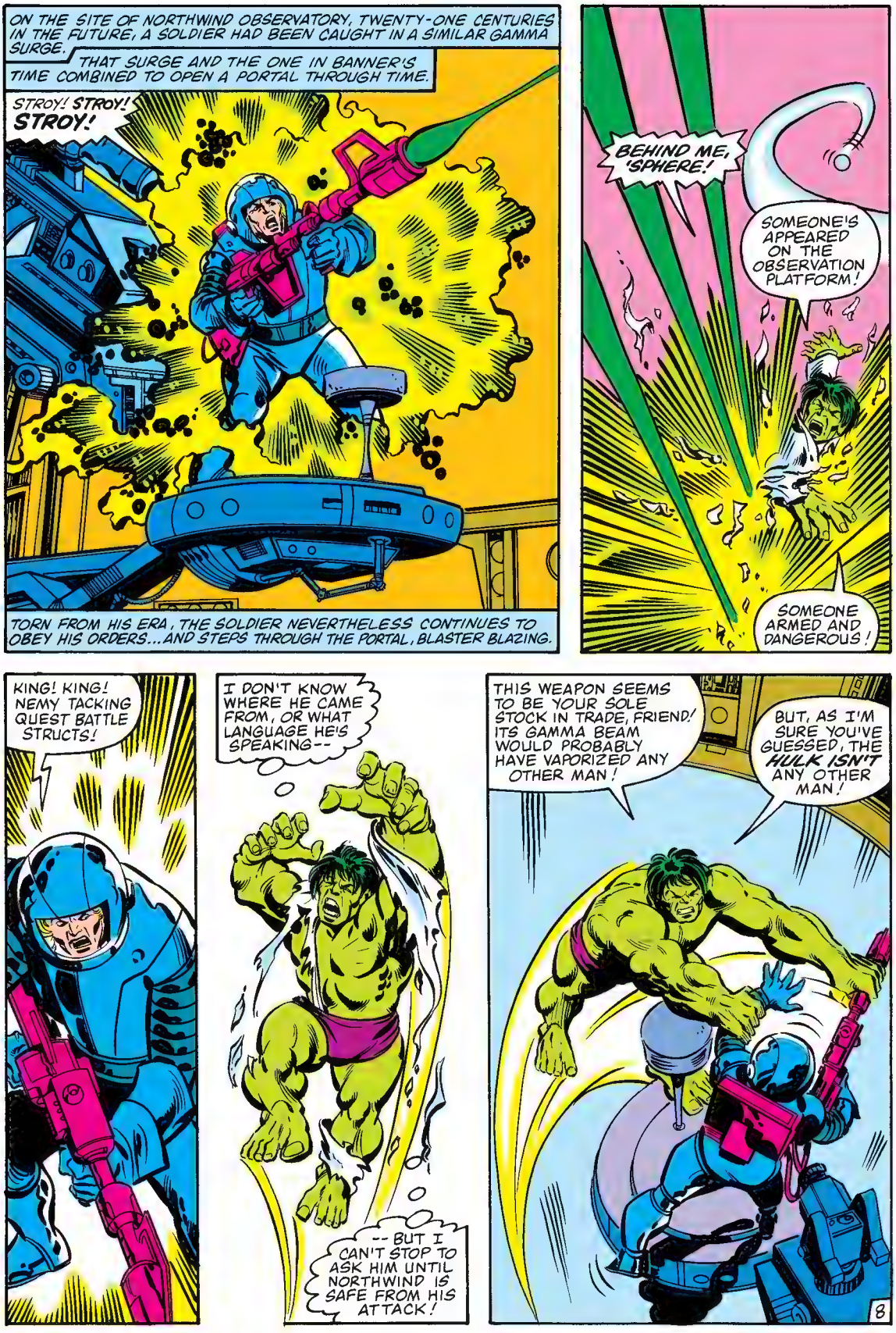

DOCTOR BANNER! THE STRENGTH OF THE GAMMA SURGE HAS SENT YOU FLYING FROM THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM!
YOU MUST ACT TO SAVE YOURSELF!

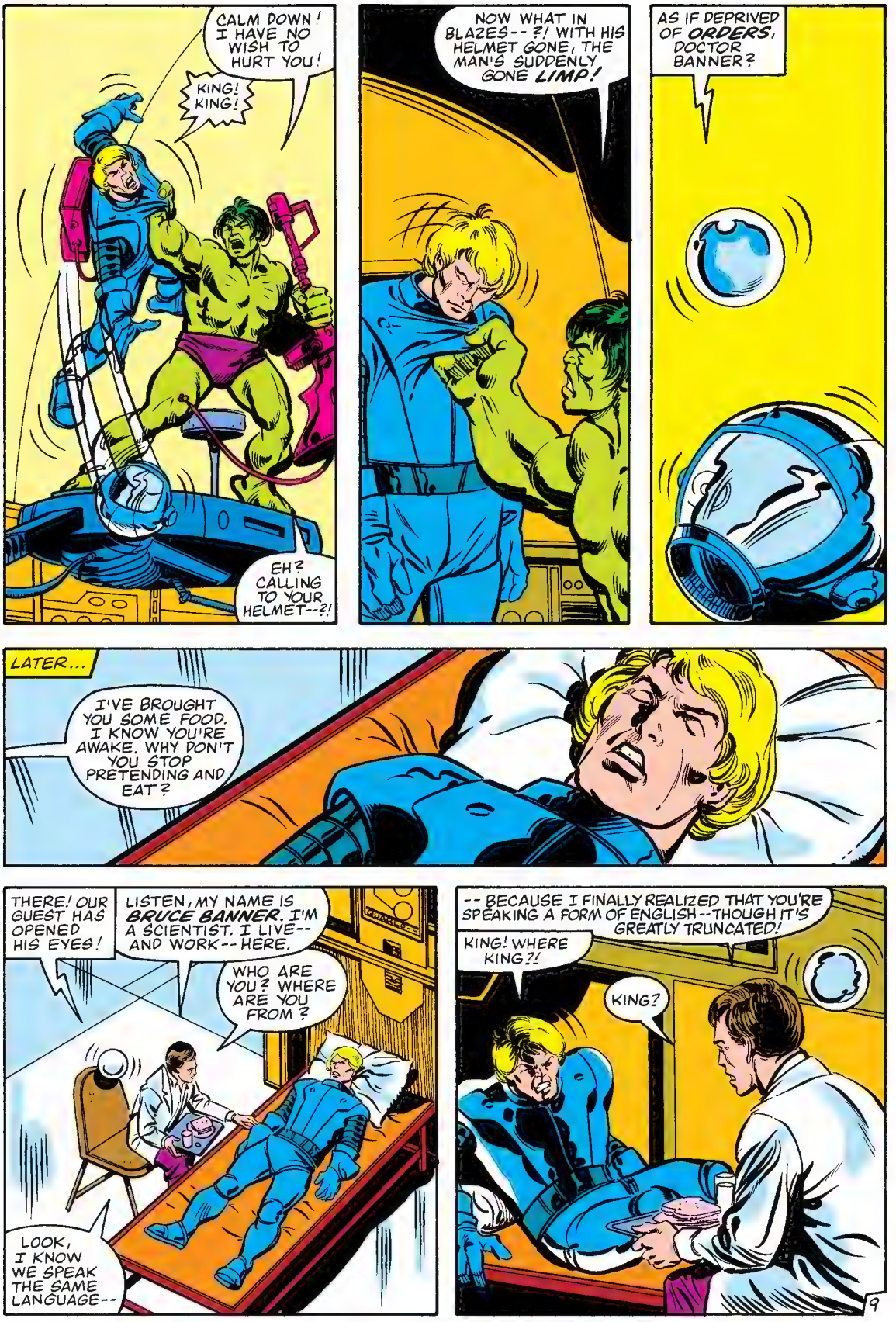

YES! M-MUST SAVE MYSELF!
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES. AN ACT OF WILL...

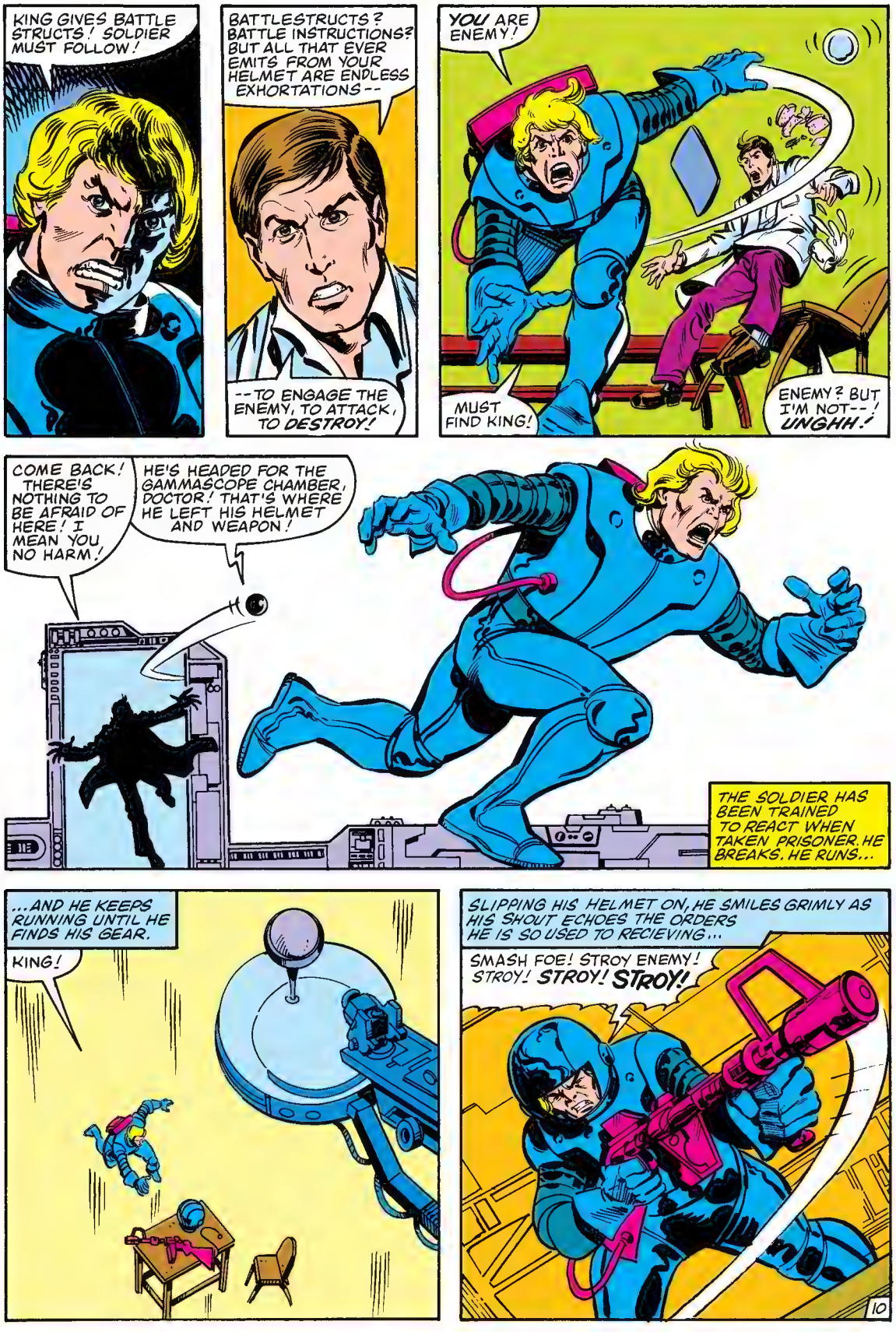

...AND THE ALTOGETHER TOO VULNERABLE PHYSICIST UNDERGOES AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION...
THOOM

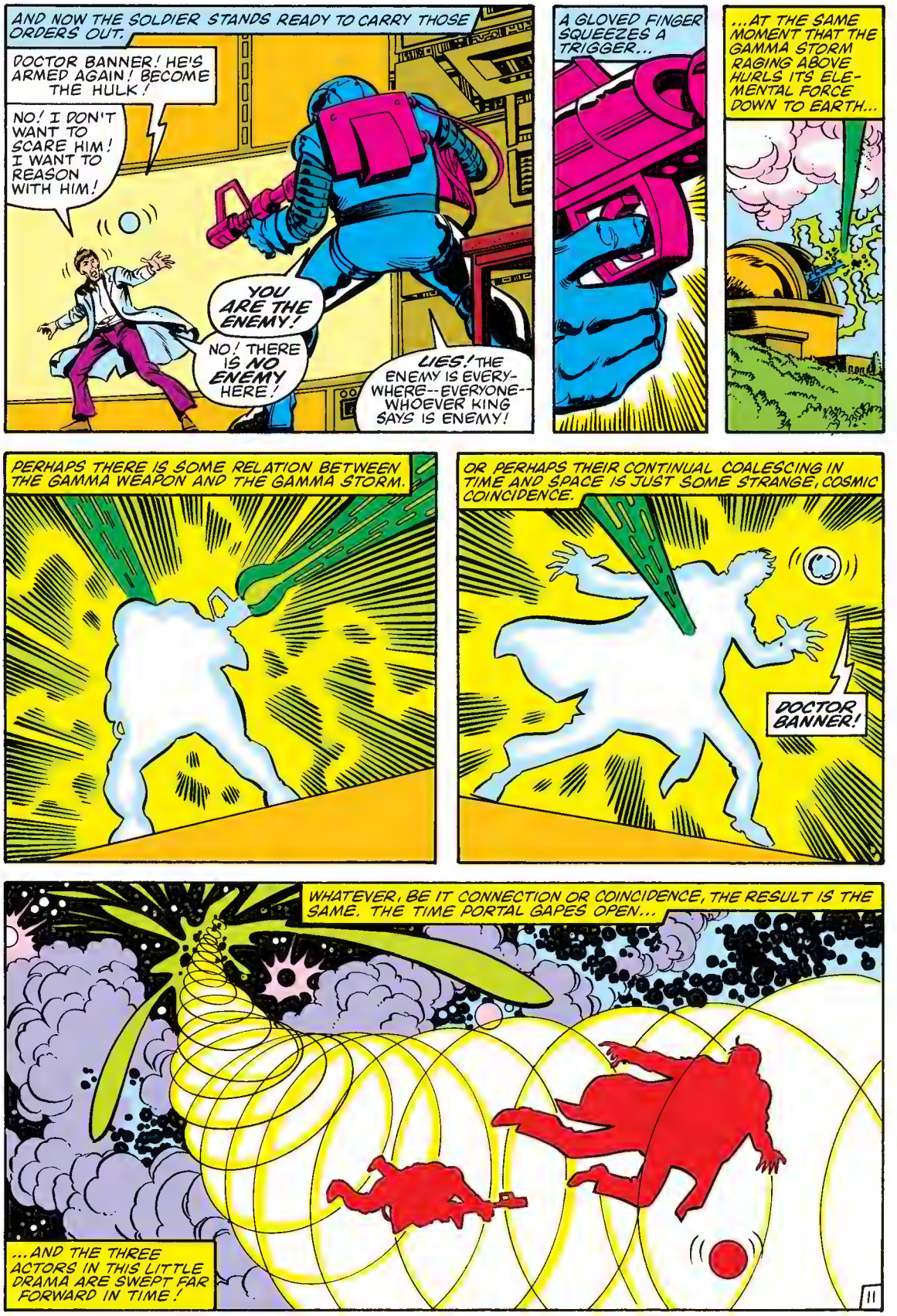

...INTO THE NEAR-INVULNERABLE GREEN-SKINNED GARGANTUA KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
DOCTOR BANNER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I AM, 'SPHERE, BUT I'M AFRAID THE FLOOR'S A A BIT THE WORSE FOR WEAR. WHAT HIT ME?

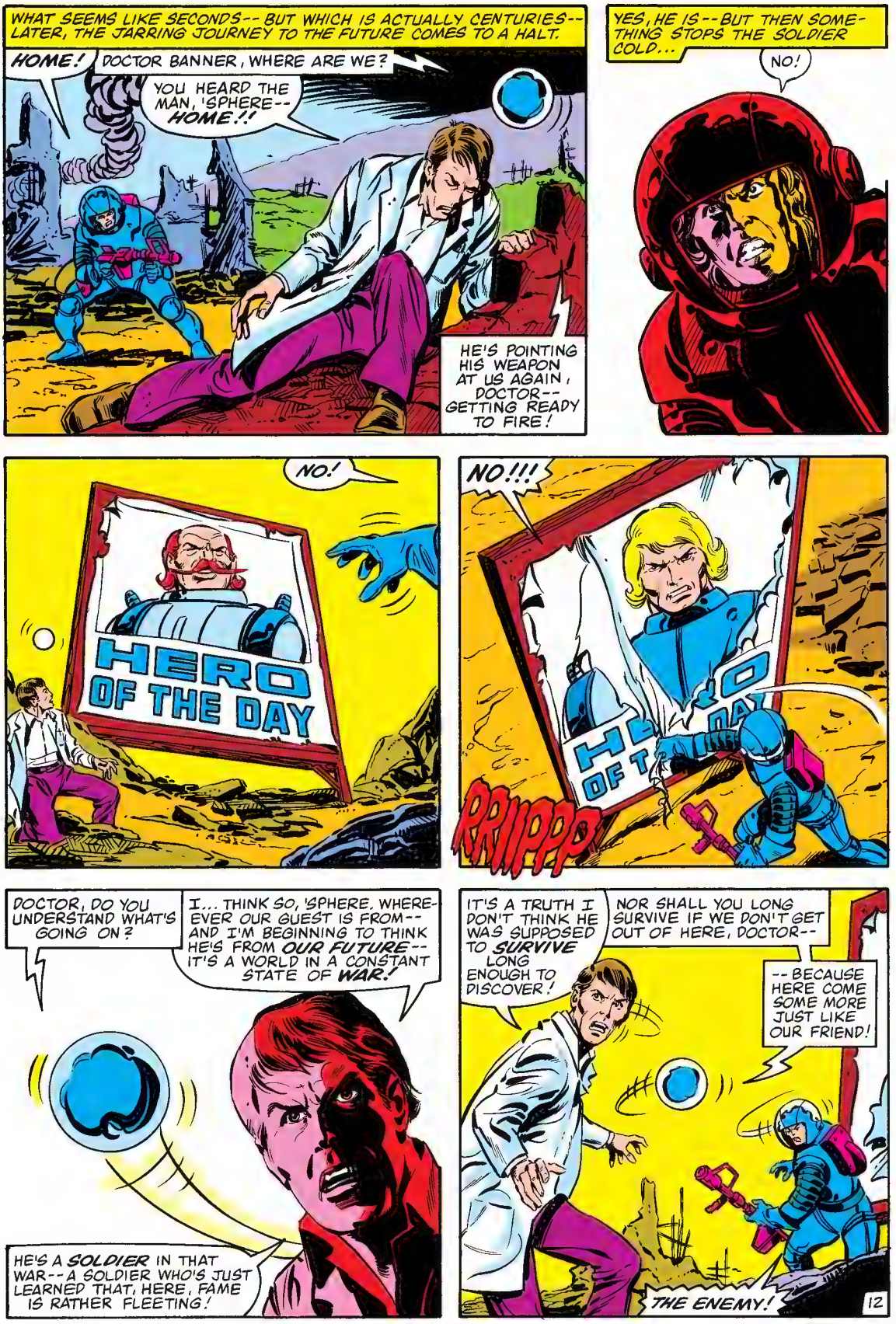
A GAMMA SURGE! IT SEEMS THE STORM YOU WERE OBSERVING SOMEHOW FED BACK THROUGH THE GAMMASCOPE!
THAT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN! I DIDN'T DESIGN THE 'SCOPE WITH COLLECTOR CAPACITY!
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER EXPLANATION!
THERE IS...
7


ON THE SITE OF NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY, TWENTY-ONE CENTURIES IN THE FUTURE, A SOLDIER HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN A SIMILAR GAMMA SURGE.
THAT SURGE AND THE ONE IN BANNER'S TIME COMBINED TO OPEN A PORTAL THROUGH TIME.
STROY! STROY! STROY!
TORN FROM HIS ERA, THE SOLDIER NEVERTHELESS CONTINUES TO OBEY HIS ORDERS...AND STEPS THROUGH THE PORTAL, BLASTER BLAZING.
BEHIND ME, 'SPHERE!
SOMEONE'S APPEARED ON THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM!
SOMEONE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!
KING! KING! NEMY TACKING QUEST BATTLE STRUCTS!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM, OR WHAT LANGUAGE HE'S SPEAKING--
-- BUT I CAN'T STOP TO ASK HIM UNTIL NORTHWIND IS SAFE FROM HIS ATTACK!
THIS WEAPON SEEMS TO BE YOUR SOLE STOCK IN TRADE, FRIEND! ITS GAMMA BEAM WOULD PROBABLY HAVE VAPORIZED ANY OTHER MAN!
BUT, AS I'M SURE YOU'VE GUESSED, THE HULK ISN'T ANY OTHER MAN!
8


CALM DOWN! I HAVE NO WISH TO HURT YOU!
KING! KING!
EH? CALLING TO YOUR HELMET--?!
NOW WHAT IN BLAZES--?! WITH HIS HELMET GONE, THE MAN'S SUDDENLY GONE LIMP!
AS IF DEPRIVED OF ORDERS, DOCTOR BANNER?
LATER...
I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD. I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE. WHY DON'T YOU STOP PRETENDING AND EAT?
THERE! OUR GUEST HAS OPENED HIS EYES!
LISTEN, MY NAME IS BRUCE BANNER. I'M A SCIENTIST. I LIVE-- AND WORK-- HERE.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
LOOK, I KNOW WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE--
-- BECAUSE I FINALLY REALIZED THAT YOU'RE SPEAKING A FORM OF ENGLISH--THOUGH IT'S GREATLY TRUNCATED!
KING! WHERE KING?!
KING?
9

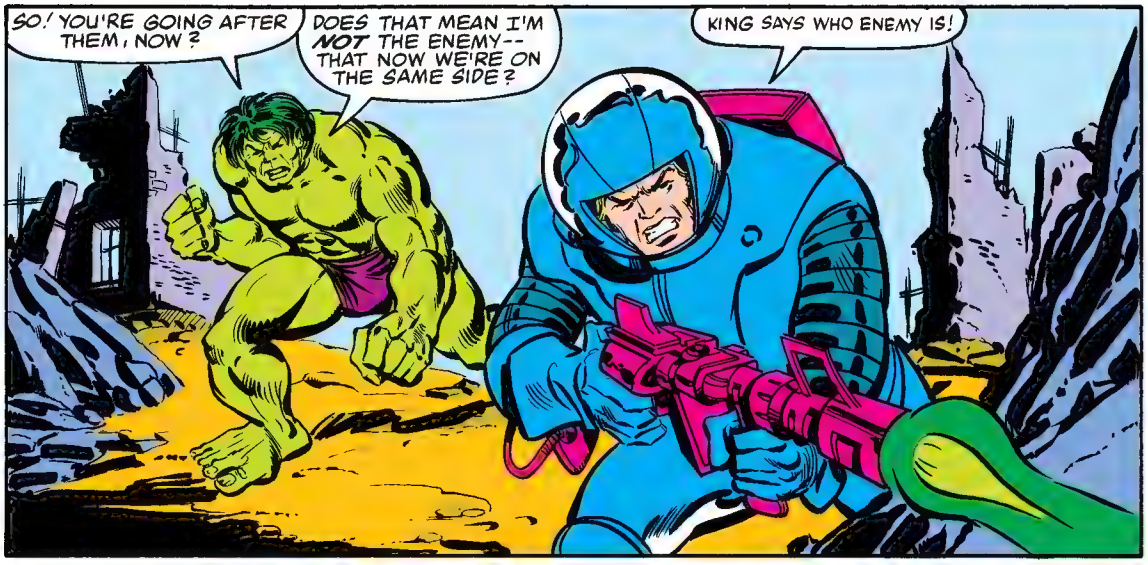

KING GIVES BATTLE STRUCTS! SOLDIER MUST FOLLOW!
BATTLESTRUCTS? BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS? BUT ALL THAT EVER EMITS FROM YOUR HELMET ARE ENDLESS EXHORTATIONS--
--TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY, TO ATTACK, TO DESTROY!
YOU ARE ENEMY!
MUST FIND KING!
ENEMY? BUT I'M NOT--! UNGHH!
COME BACK! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF HERE! I MEAN YOU NO HARM!
HE'S HEADED FOR THE GAMMASCOPE CHAMBER, DOCTOR! THAT'S WHERE HE LEFT HIS HELMET AND WEAPON!
THE SOLDIER HAS BEEN TRAINED TO REACT WHEN TAKEN PRISONER. HE BREAKS. HE RUNS...
...AND HE KEEPS RUNNING UNTIL HE FINDS HIS GEAR.
KING!
SLIPPING HIS HELMET ON, HE SMILES GRIMLY AS HIS SHOUT ECHOES THE ORDERS HE IS SO USED TO RECIEVING...
SMASH FOE! STROY ENEMY! STROY! STROY! STROY!
10

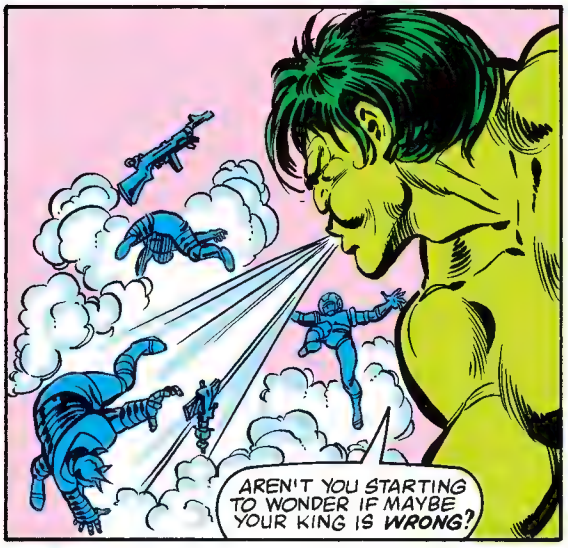

AND NOW THE SOLDIER STANDS READY TO CARRY THOSE ORDERS OUT.
DOCTOR BANNER! HE'S ARMED AGAIN! BECOME THE HULK!
NO! I DON'T WANT TO SCARE HIM! I WANT TO REASON WITH HIM!
YOU ARE THE ENEMY!
NO! THERE IS NO ENEMY HERE!
LIES! THE ENEMY IS EVERYWHERE--EVERYONE--WHOEVER KING SAYS IS ENEMY!
A GLOVED FINGER SQUEEZES A TRIGGER...
...AT THE SAME MOMENT THAT THE GAMMA STORM RAGING ABOVE HURLS ITS ELEMENTAL FORCE DOWN TO EARTH...
PERHAPS THERE IS SOME RELATION BETWEEN THE GAMMA WEAPON AND THE GAMMA STORM.
OR PERHAPS THEIR CONTINUAL COALESCING IN TIME AND SPACE IS JUST SOME STRANGE, COSMIC COINCIDENCE.
DOCTOR BANNER!
WHATEVER, BE IT CONNECTION OR COINCIDENCE, THE RESULT IS THE SAME. THE TIME PORTAL GAPES OPEN...
...AND THE THREE ACTORS IN THIS LITTLE DRAMA ARE SWEPT FAR FORWARD IN TIME!
11

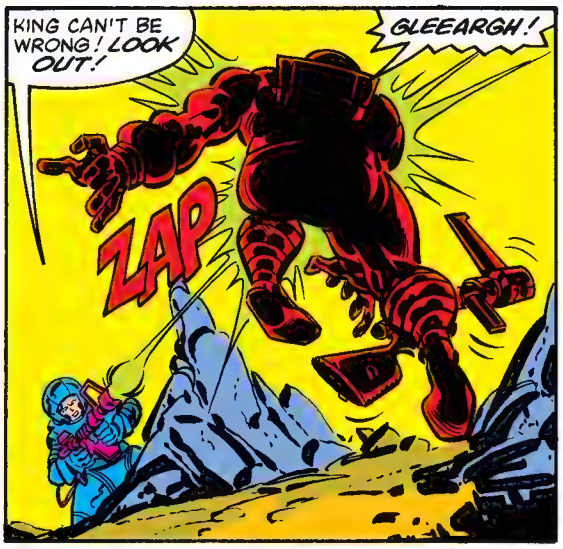

WHAT SEEMS LIKE SECONDS-- BUT WHICH IS ACTUALLY CENTURIES-- LATER, THE JARRING JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE COMES TO A HALT.
HOME!
DOCTOR BANNER, WHERE ARE WE?
YOU HEARD THE MAN, 'SPHERE-- HOME!!
HE'S POINTING HIS WEAPON AT US AGAIN, DOCTOR-- GETTING READY TO FIRE!
YES, HE IS--BUT THEN SOMETHING STOPS THE SOLDIER COLD...
NO!
NO!
HERO OF THE DAY
NO!!!
PRIPPP
DOCTOR, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON?
I... THINK SO, 'SPHERE, WHEREVER OUR GUEST IS FROM-- AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HE'S FROM OUR FUTURE-- IT'S A WORLD IN A CONSTANT STATE OF WAR!
HE'S A SOLDIER IN THAT WAR--A SOLDIER WHO'S JUST LEARNED THAT, HERE, FAME IS RATHER FLEETING!
IT'S A TRUTH I DON'T THINK HE WAS SUPPOSED TO SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO DISCOVER!
NOR SHALL YOU LONG SURVIVE IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE, DOCTOR--
--BECAUSE HERE COME SOME MORE JUST LIKE OUR FRIEND!
THE ENEMY!
12

THE ENEMY? HOW CAN YOU TELL? THEY WEAR THE SAME BATTLE-ARMOR; BEAR THE SAME WEAPONS! WHAT MAKES THEM THE ENEMY?!
ALL ARE ENEMY! HAVE TO FIGHT SO WAR CAN GO ON!
STROY! STROY! STROY!!
YOU MEAN, THERE ARE NO SIDES IN THIS WAR?! YOU FIGHT AGAINST ANYONE AND EVERYONE?!
IT APPEARS, DOCTOR, THAT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANS!
VREET
VREET
VREEOW
ENEMY!
ENEMY!
NO! STOP! LISTEN TO ME! HOW CAN I BE THE ENEMY WHEN I'M NOT EVEN FROM YOUR TIME?!
WHO IS ENEMY-- NOT IMPORTANT. LIFE IS WAR. MUST MAINTAIN THE WAR.
KING SAY ALL MUST DIE!
D-DOCTOR--?!
EVEN BEFORE THE SOLDIERS CAN TRIGGER THEIR WEAPONS, THE CHANGE HAS BEGUN.
13

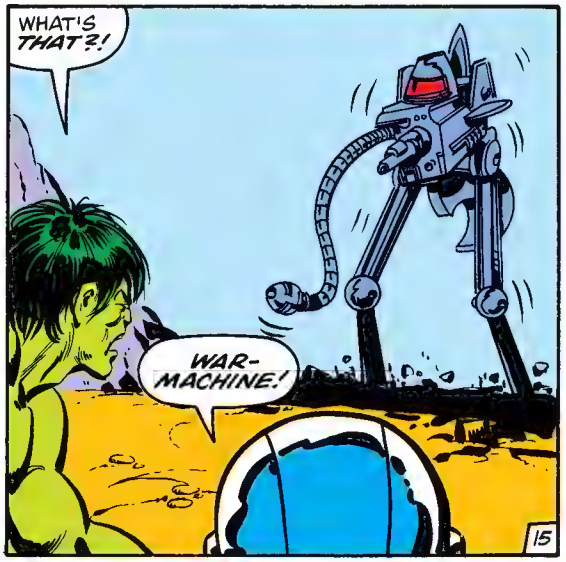
BY THE TIME THE BLASTER RAYS REACH HIM--
--BRUCE BANNER--
--IS THE HULK!
FRZAK
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME!
I SAID... I'M NOT THE ENEMY!
BUT I AM GETTING MAD!
SKATHRAK
KASHTROOM
14

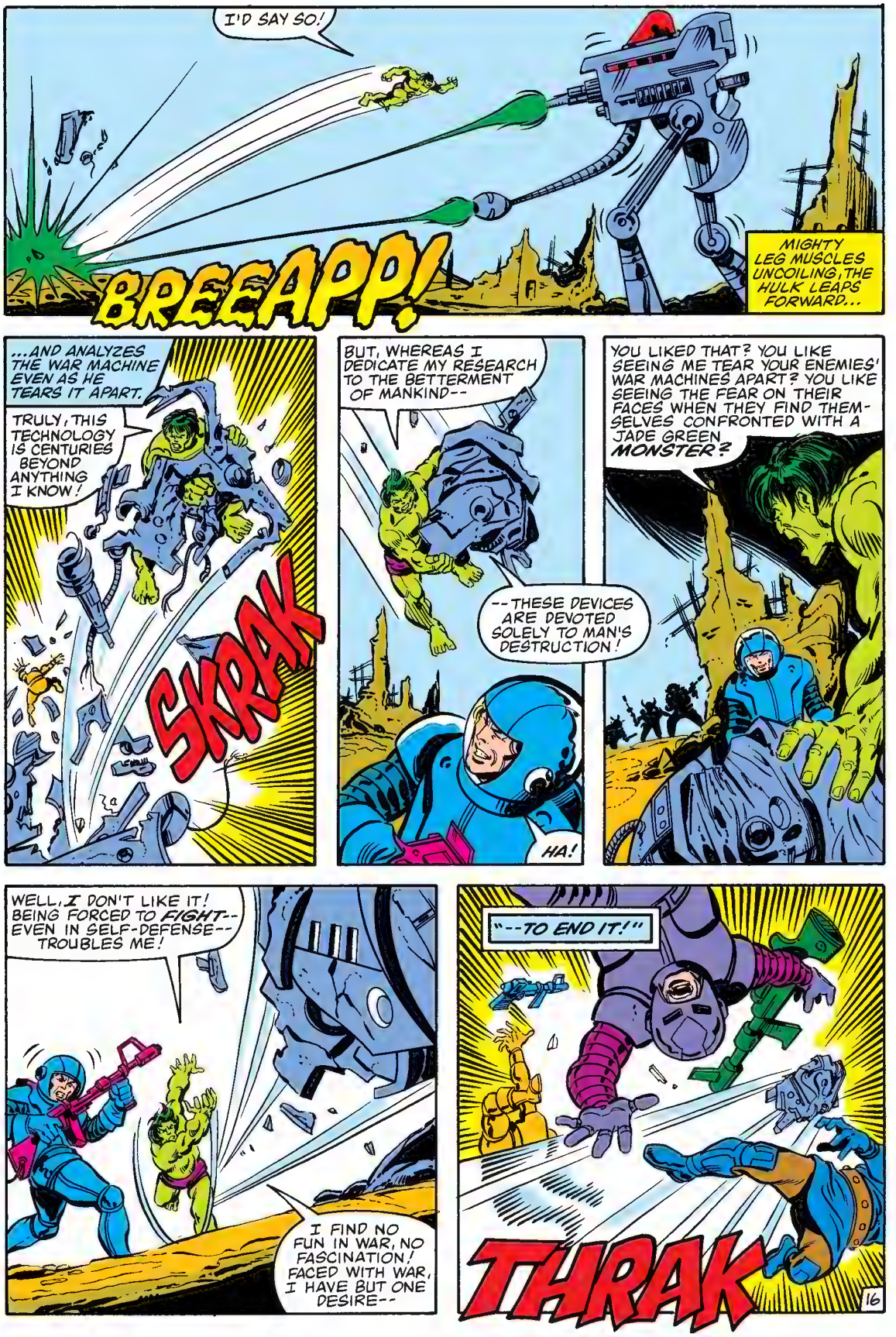

SO! YOU'RE GOING AFTER THEM, NOW?
DOES THAT MEAN I'M NOT THE ENEMY--THAT NOW WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE?
KING SAYS WHO ENEMY IS!


AREN'T YOU STARTING TO WONDER IF MAYBE YOUR KING IS WRONG?

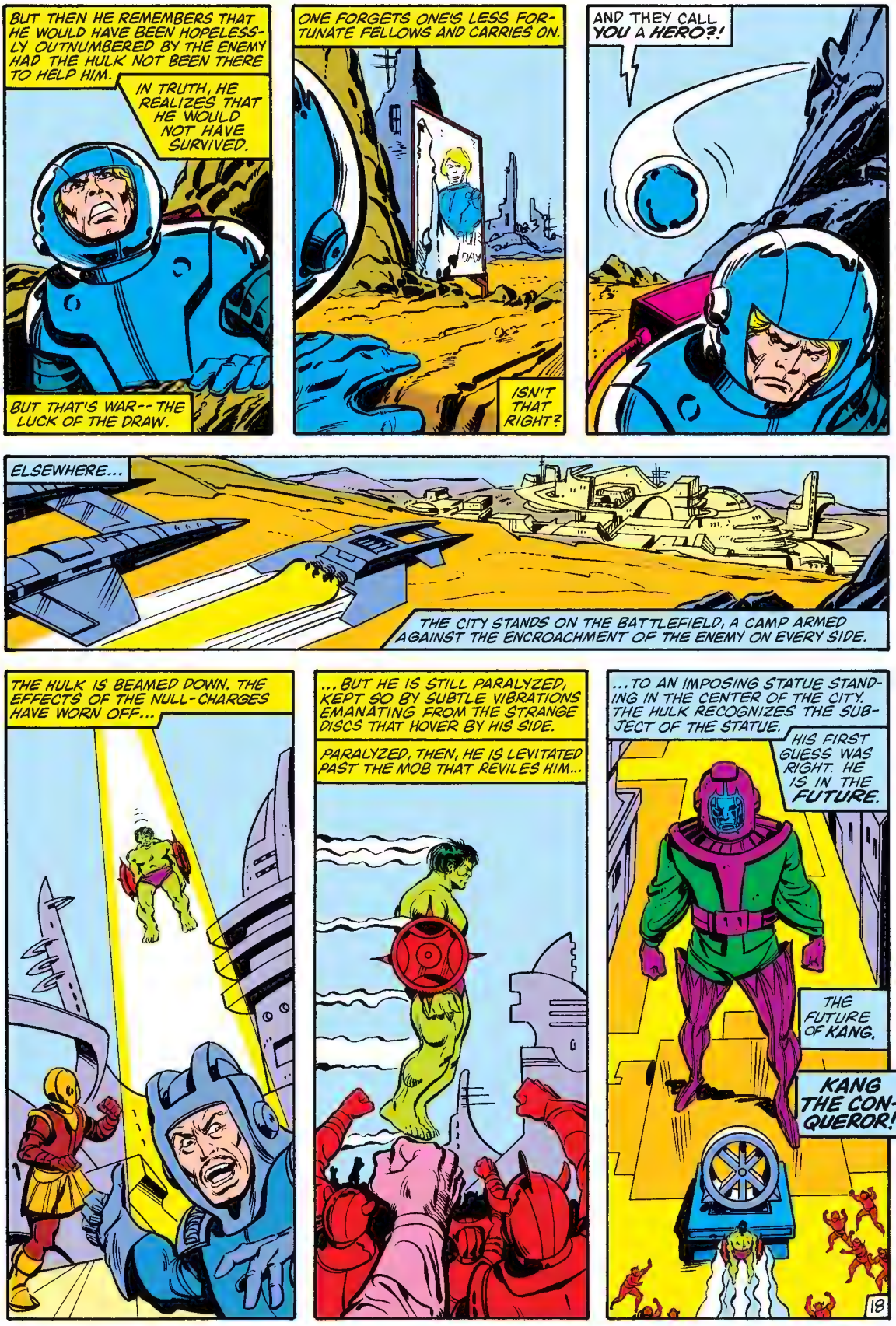

KING CAN'T BE WRONG! LOOK OUT!
GLEEARGH!
ZAP

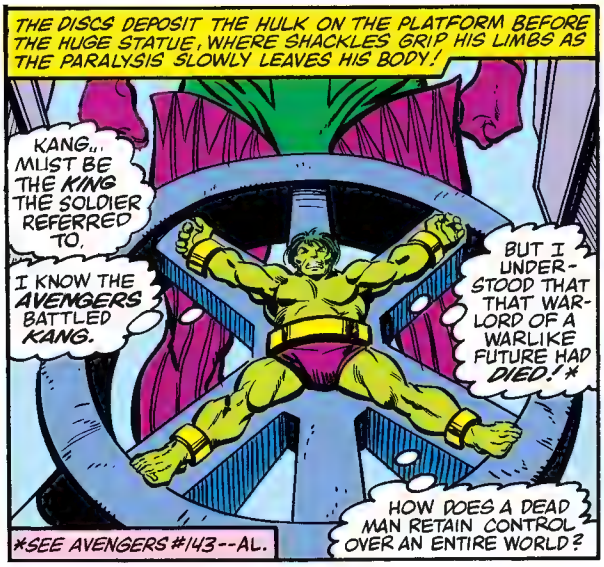
YOUR KING IS WRONG--EVERYONE, INCLUDING ME, IS TO BE REGARDED AS THE ENEMY--AND YET YOU JUST PICKED OFF A SNIPER WHO WAS AIMING AT MY BACK!
YOU'RE UP AGAINST AN INHERENT CONTRADICTION, MY FRIEND--
--BUT I SUSPECT THAT YOU'RE NOT SO SINGLE-MINDED AS YOU APPEAR!


WHAT'S THAT?!
WAR-MACHINE!
15


I'D SAY SO!
BREEAPP!
MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES UNCOILING, THE HULK LEAPS FORWARD...
...AND ANALYZES THE WAR MACHINE EVEN AS HE TEARS IT APART.
TRULY, THIS TECHNOLOGY IS CENTURIES BEYOND ANYTHING I KNOW!
SKRAK
BUT, WHEREAS I DEDICATE MY RESEARCH TO THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND--
--THESE DEVICES ARE DEVOTED SOLELY TO MAN'S DESTRUCTION!
HA!
YOU LIKED THAT? YOU LIKE SEEING ME TEAR YOUR ENEMIES' WAR MACHINES APART? YOU LIKE SEEING THE FEAR ON THEIR FACES WHEN THEY FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH A JADE GREEN MONSTER?
WELL, I DON'T LIKE IT! BEING FORCED TO FIGHT-- EVEN IN SELF-DEFENSE-- TROUBLES ME!
I FIND NO FUN IN WAR, NO FASCINATION! FACED WITH WAR, I HAVE BUT ONE DESIRE--
"--TO END IT!"
THRAK
16

WAR NEVER END! WAR ALWAYS WAS --ALWAYS WILL BE! WAR GO ON AND ON!
NO! ONLY IF YOU LET IT!
MEN START WARS--MEN CAN STOP THEM!
EH? WHAT'S THAT?!
NULL-CHARGES! HIDE!
NOWHERE TO HIDE! NO TIME!
BRADOOM
SOMETHING EMITTED BY THE BOMBS PENETRATES EVEN THE INCREDIBLE HULK'S PRACTICALLY IMPERMEABLE SKIN, AND RACING ALONG HIS NEUROSYSTEM TO HIS BRAIN...
...RENDERS HIM PARALYZED.
HIDDEN IN A CRATER, THE SOLDIER GRINS. HE'S ESCAPED, HE'S SURVIVED...
...AND THE ENEMY SEEMS TO BE CONTENT WITH THE CAPTURE OF HIS EMERALD ALLY.
17

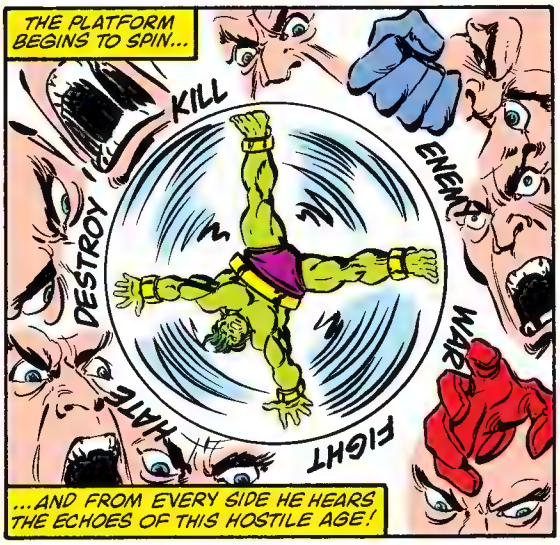

BUT THEN HE REMEMBERS THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED BY THE ENEMY HAD THE HULK NOT BEEN THERE TO HELP HIM.
IN TRUTH, HE REALIZES THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED.
BUT THAT'S WAR -- THE LUCK OF THE DRAW.
ONE FORGETS ONE'S LESS FORTUNATE FELLOWS AND CARRIES ON.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
AND THEY CALL YOU A HERO?!
ELSEWHERE...
THE CITY STANDS ON THE BATTLEFIELD, A CAMP ARMED AGAINST THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE ENEMY ON EVERY SIDE.
THE HULK IS BEAMED DOWN. THE EFFECTS OF THE NULL-CHARGES HAVE WORN OFF...
...BUT HE IS STILL PARALYZED, KEPT SO BY SUBTLE VIBRATIONS EMANATING FROM THE STRANGE DISCS THAT HOVER BY HIS SIDE.
PARALYZED, THEN, HE IS LEVITATED PAST THE MOB THAT REVILES HIM...
...TO AN IMPOSING STATUE STANDING IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY. THE HULK RECOGNIZES THE SUBJECT OF THE STATUE.
HIS FIRST GUESS WAS RIGHT. HE IS IN THE FUTURE.
THE FUTURE OF KANG.
KANG THE CONQUEROR!
18


THE DISCS DEPOSIT THE HULK ON THE PLATFORM BEFORE THE HUGE STATUE, WHERE SHACKLES GRIP HIS LIMBS AS THE PARALYSIS SLOWLY LEAVES HIS BODY!
KANG... MUST BE THE KING THE SOLDIER REFERRED TO.
I KNOW THE AVENGERS BATTLED KANG.
BUT I UNDERSTOOD THAT THAT WARLORD OF A WARLIKE FUTURE HAD DIED!*
HOW DOES A DEAD MAN RETAIN CONTROL OVER AN ENTIRE WORLD?
*SEE AVENGERS #143--AL.

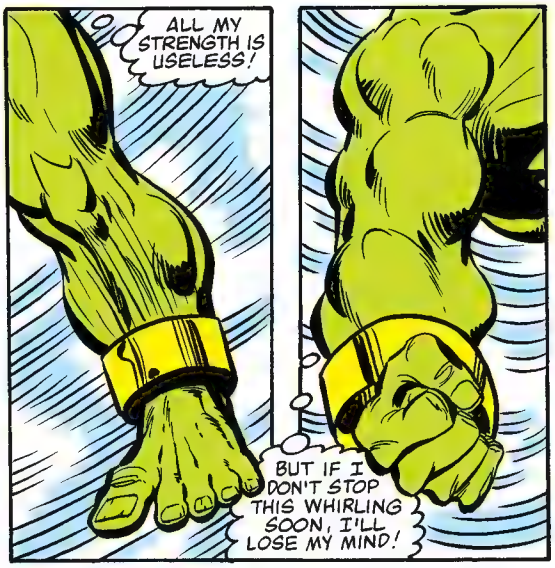
FROM EVERY HELMET, THE HULK GETS HIS ANSWER...
KING SAY SMASH FOE!
DESTROY THE ENEMY!
STROY! STROY! STROY!

THE HELMETS! THAT'S IT! A RECORDING OF KANG'S VOICE, TRANSMITTED THROUGH EVERY HELMET, URGES THEM ON TO SENSELESS ACTS OF SLAUGHTER!

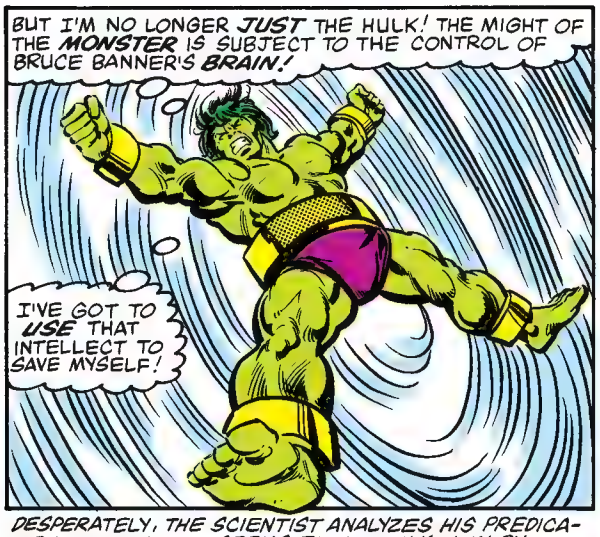
HIS VOICE HAS MADE ME THE ENEMY NOW! WHEN I'M GONE, THEY'LL FIGHT EACH OTHER AGAIN!
DEATH TO THE ENEMY! DESTROY THE ENEMY!
DESTROY! DESTROY! DESTROY!


THE PLATFORM BEGINS TO SPIN...
KILL
ENEMY
WAR
FIGHT
HATE
DESTROY
...AND FROM EVERY SIDE HE HEARS THE ECHOES OF THIS HOSTILE AGE!

I CAN'T MOVE TO BREAK FREE!

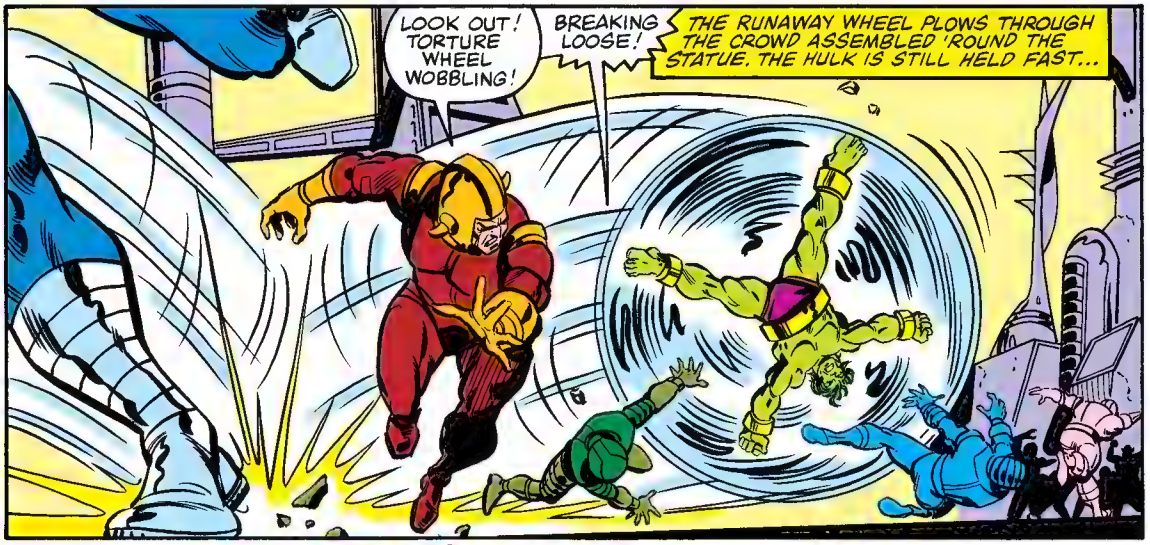

ALL MY STRENGTH IS USELESS!
BUT IF I DON'T STOP THIS WHIRLING SOON, I'LL LOSE MY MIND!

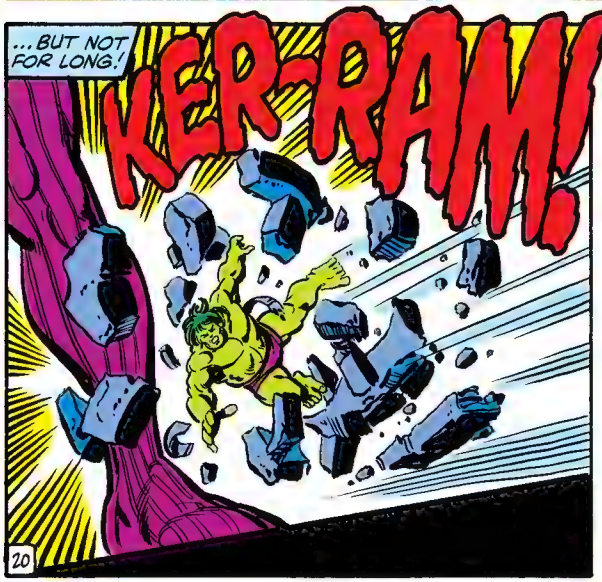
WAIT! MY MIND! THAT'S IT!
WHENEVER I'M IN DANGER, I RELY ON THE HULK'S MIGHT! THAT MIGHT IS USELESS NOW!
19


BUT I'M NO LONGER JUST THE HULK! THE MIGHT OF THE MONSTER IS SUBJECT TO THE CONTROL OF BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN!
I'VE GOT TO USE THAT INTELLECT TO SAVE MYSELF!

DESPERATELY, THE SCIENTIST ANALYZES HIS PREDICAMENT. THE WHEEL SEEMS TO HOLD HIM NOW BY ROTATIONAL FORCE.

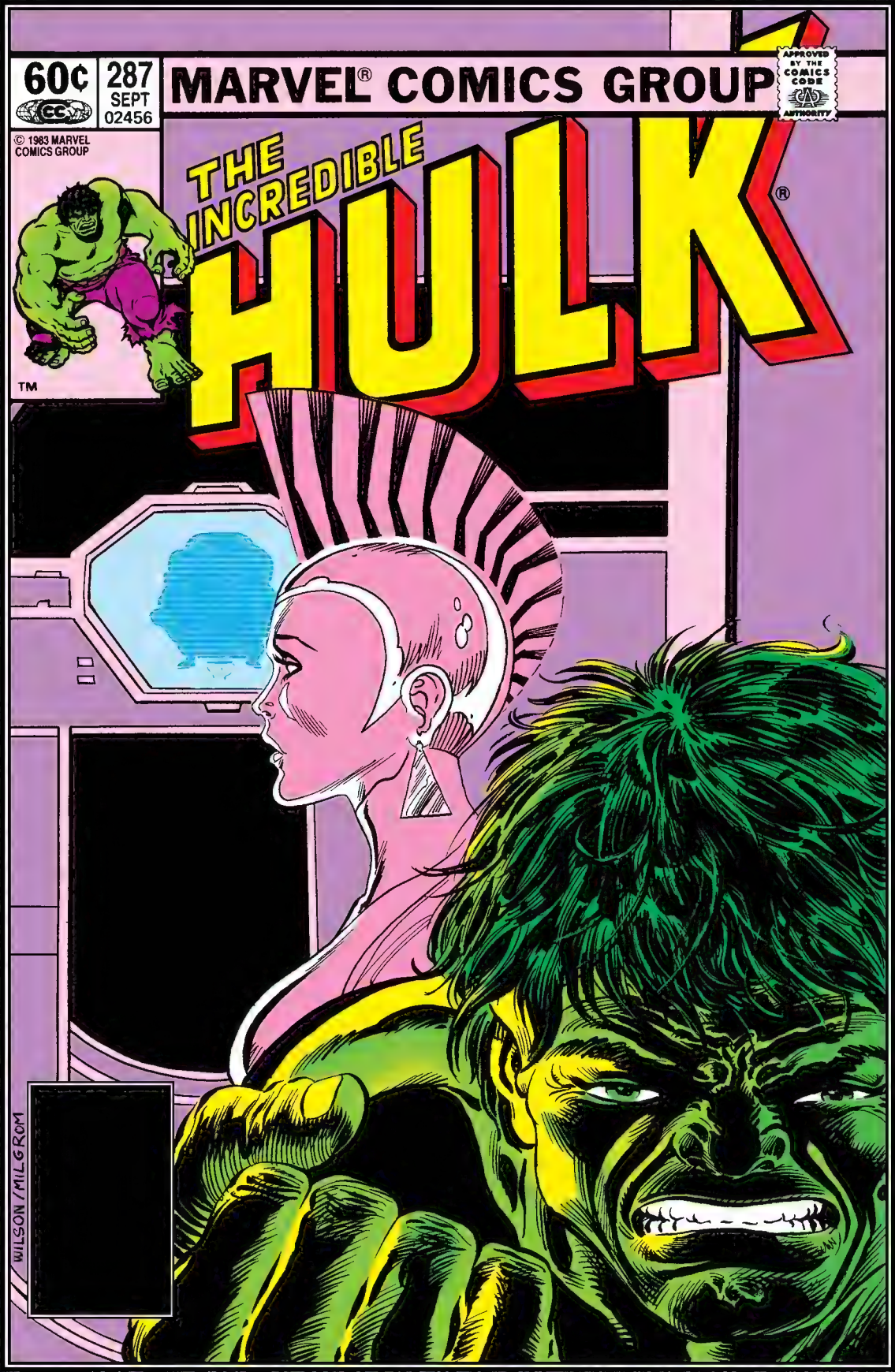
INSTEAD OF FIGHTING THAT FORCE WHY NOT ADD MY POWER TO IT!
IT'S...WORKING! BY... STRAINING...SHIFTING WITH MY POWER... WITH THE DIRECTION OF THE WHEEL... I'M OVERLOADING IT!


LOOK OUT! TORTURE WHEEL WOBBLING!
BREAKING LOOSE!
THE RUNAWAY WHEEL PLOWS THROUGH THE CROWD ASSEMBLED 'ROUND THE STATUE. THE HULK IS STILL HELD FAST...



BUT CAN EVEN THAT MATCHLESS, MEASURELESS MIGHT LONG PREVAIL 'GAINST A WORLD GONE MAD?
FIGHT THE NEMY!
STROY THE NEMY!
STROY! STROY! STROY!
TEAR OFF YOUR HELMETS! STOP THE VOICE!
THEY CAN'T! VOICE WITH ALL FROM BIRTH!
CRADLE TO GRAVE, ALL WE HEAR!
FIGHT THE ENEMY! STROY THE ENEMY!
STROY! STROY! STROY!
NO MORE!!!
VREEEEOW
AT-TACK THE ENE-MY! DE-STROY THE ENE-MY!
DE-STROY! DE-STROY! DE-STROY!
ON AND ON AND ON! OVER AND OVER--
--MANIPULATING A WORLD TO MURDER AND PILLAGE AND WAR EVEN FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!
AN ENTIRE AGE DRIVEN TO CHAOS BY THE SOUND OF ONE MAN'S VOICE!
A SUPREME EFFORT...
...AND THAT VOICE IS FINALLY STILLED!
KATHROOM!
SQUEEEE
THE KING IS DEAD.
21

NO MORE, KING! NO MORE BATTLESTRUCTS! VOICE OVER! VOICE GONE!
NO VOICE, NO ENEMY, NO WAR!
THE ASSEMBLED MASSES PONDER THE SOLDIER'S WORDS FOR A MOMENT, TURNING THEM OVER AND OVER, EXAMINING THEM WITH THOUGHTS UNCLOUDED BY CLAMORING COMMANDS.
BUT, IN THE END, WHAT HE ASKS IS TOO MUCH FOR A WORLD THAT HAS NEVER KNOWN ANYTHING BUT WAR.
THEY REJECT HIM.
AGGHHH!
TH-THEY CUT HIM DOWN! THEY DIDN'T EVEN LISTEN!
THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM! HIS CONTACT WITH ME CHANGED HIM, MADE HIM RECEPTIVE TO ANOTHER WAY!
THE REST--WELL, LIKE HE SAID, FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE THEY'D NEVER HEARD ANY SOUND OTHER THAN KANG'S VOICE EXHORTING THEM TO WAR!
AFTER A LIFETIME OF THAT, HOW COULD THEY HELP BUT BE DEAF TO A VOICE OF PEACE?
THE CROWD CLOSES IN FOR THE KILL...
...BUT WHATEVER BROUGHT THE JADE JUGGERNAUT AMONG THEM WEARS OFF, AND ONE ENEMY GONE... A WORLD GOES BACK TO WAR!
22
NEXT MONTH "LOOSE ENDS!" "WHEREIN PRACTICALLY NOTHING... AND EVERYTHING... TAKES PLACE!"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Caught in the heart of a ***Nuclear Explosion,*** victim of ***Gamma-Radiation*** gone wild, ***Doctor Robert Bruce Banner*** now finds himself transformed in times of stress into seven feet, one thousand pounds of unfettered ***Fury***—the most powerful creature to ever walk the earth—

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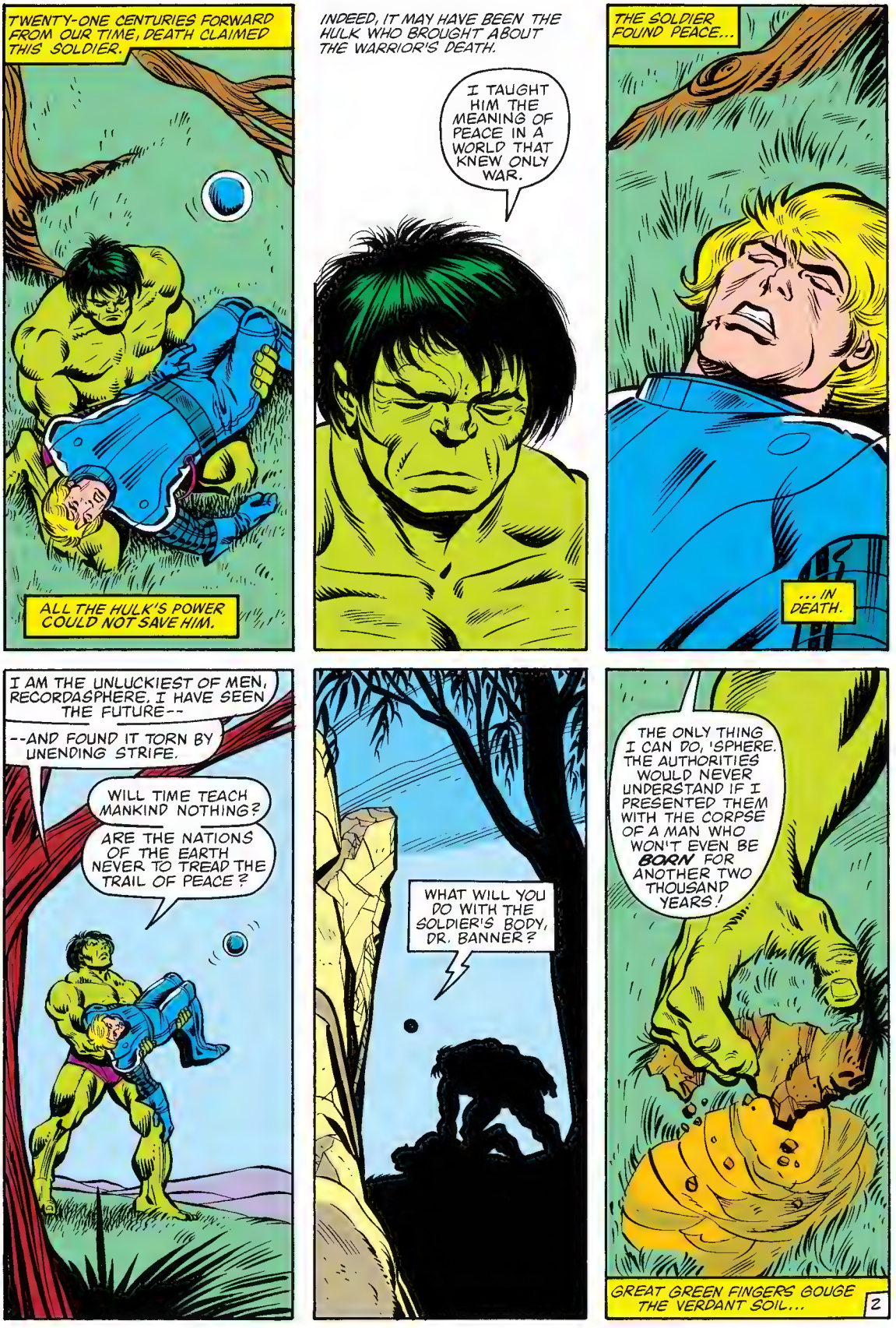
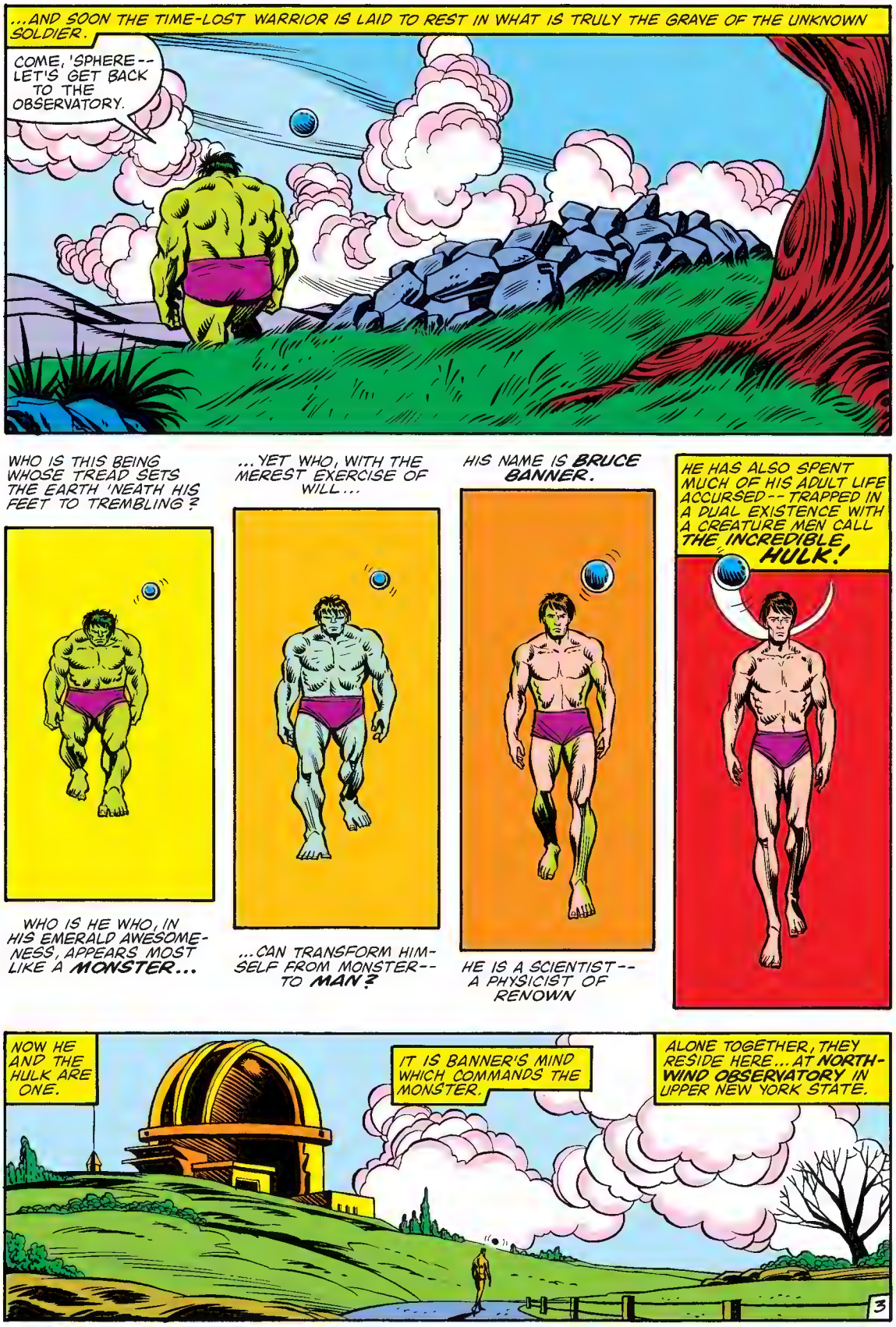
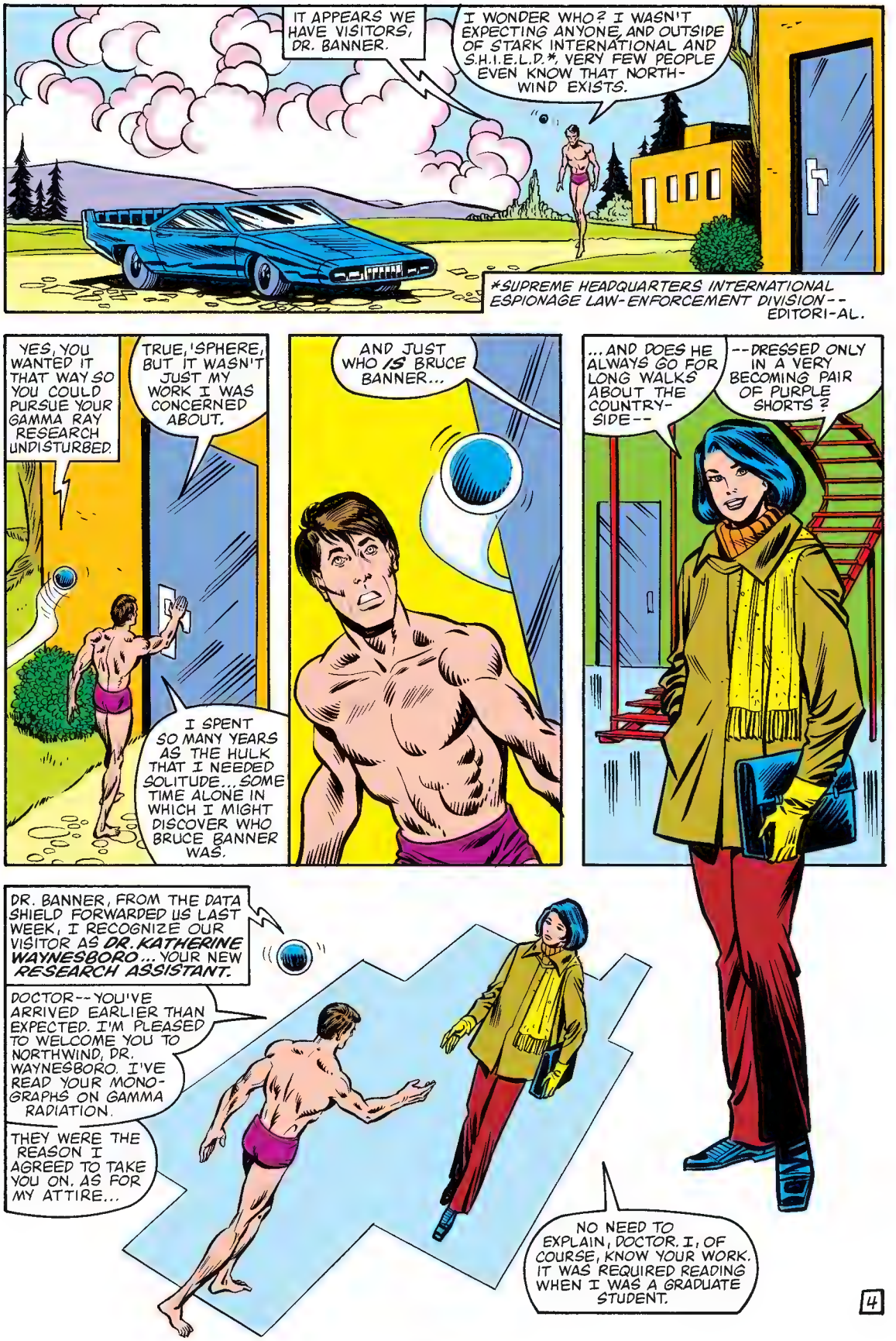
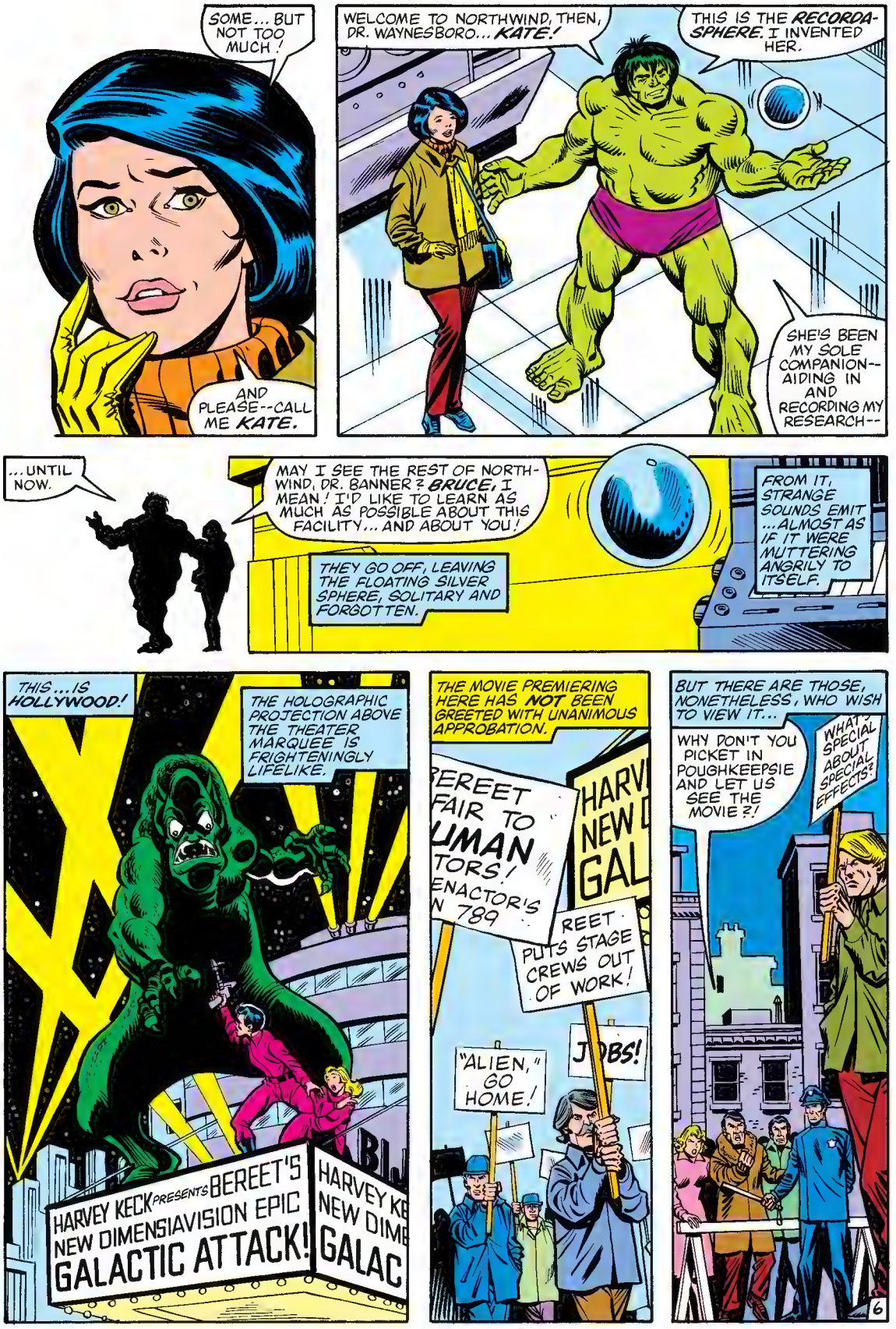
LOOSE ENDS!


TWENTY-ONE CENTURIES FORWARD FROM OUR TIME, DEATH CLAIMED THIS SOLDIER.
ALL THE HULK'S POWER COULD NOT SAVE HIM.
INDEED, IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE HULK WHO BROUGHT ABOUT THE WARRIOR'S DEATH.
I TAUGHT HIM THE MEANING OF PEACE IN A WORLD THAT KNEW ONLY WAR.
THE SOLDIER FOUND PEACE...
... IN DEATH.
I AM THE UNLUCKIEST OF MEN, RECORDASPHERE. I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE--
--AND FOUND IT TORN BY UNENDING STRIFE.
WILL TIME TEACH MANKIND NOTHING?
ARE THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH NEVER TO TREAD THE TRAIL OF PEACE?
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE SOLDIER'S BODY, DR. BANNER?
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO, 'SPHERE. THE AUTHORITIES WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND IF I PRESENTED THEM WITH THE CORPSE OF A MAN WHO WON'T EVEN BE BORN FOR ANOTHER TWO THOUSAND YEARS!
GREAT GREEN FINGERS GOUGE THE VERDANT SOIL...
2

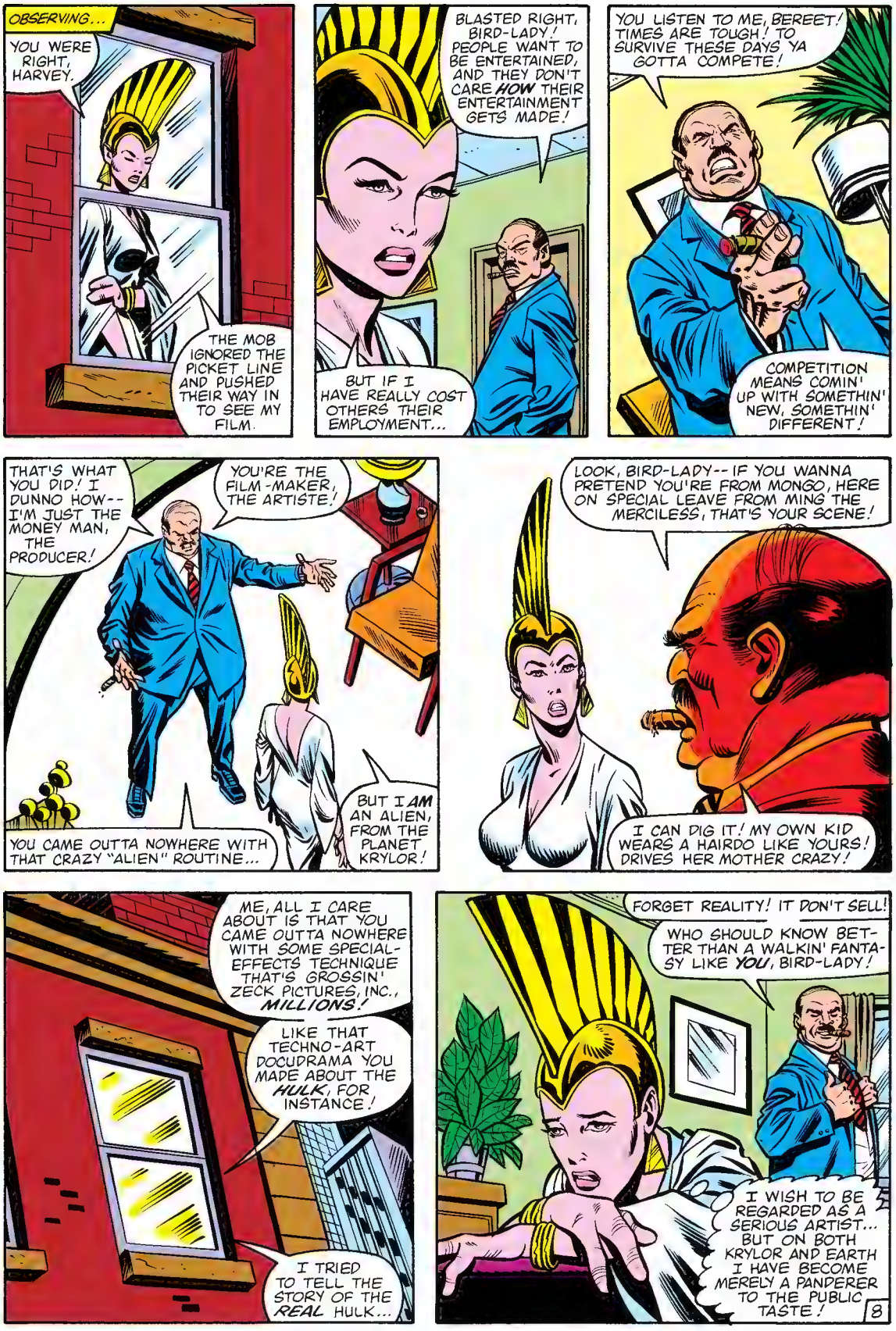

...AND SOON THE TIME-LOST WARRIOR IS LAID TO REST IN WHAT IS TRULY THE GRAVE OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER.
COME, 'SPHERE-- LET'S GET BACK TO THE OBSERVATORY.
WHO IS THIS BEING WHOSE TREAD SETS THE EARTH 'NEATH HIS FEET TO TREMBLING?
WHO IS HE WHO, IN HIS EMERALD AWESOMENESS, APPEARS MOST LIKE A MONSTER...
...YET WHO, WITH THE MEREST EXERCISE OF WILL...
...CAN TRANSFORM HIMSELF FROM MONSTER-- TO MAN?
HIS NAME IS BRUCE BANNER.
HE IS A SCIENTIST-- A PHYSICIST OF RENOWN
HE HAS ALSO SPENT MUCH OF HIS ADULT LIFE ACCURSED-- TRAPPED IN A DUAL EXISTENCE WITH A CREATURE MEN CALL THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
NOW HE AND THE HULK ARE ONE.
IT IS BANNER'S MIND WHICH COMMANDS THE MONSTER.
ALONE TOGETHER, THEY RESIDE HERE... AT NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY IN UPPER NEW YORK STATE.
3

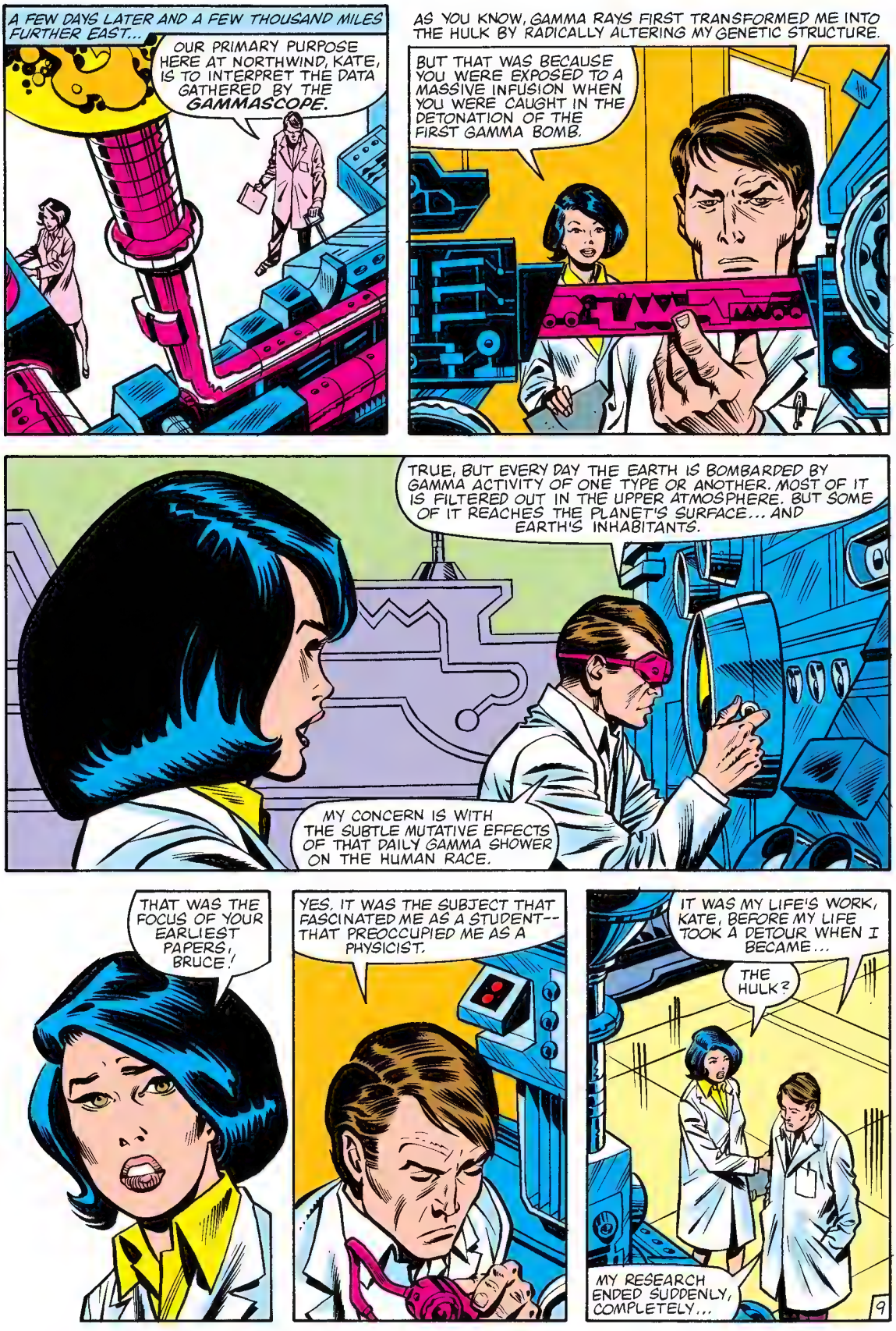

IT APPEARS WE HAVE VISITORS, DR. BANNER.
I WONDER WHO? I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYONE, AND OUTSIDE OF STARK INTERNATIONAL AND S.H.I.E.L.D.*, VERY FEW PEOPLE EVEN KNOW THAT NORTHWIND EXISTS.
*SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION--EDITORI-AL.
YES, YOU WANTED IT THAT WAY SO YOU COULD PURSUE YOUR GAMMA RAY RESEARCH UNDISTURBED.
TRUE, 'SPHERE, BUT IT WASN'T JUST MY WORK I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT.
I SPENT SO MANY YEARS AS THE HULK THAT I NEEDED SOLITUDE... SOME TIME ALONE IN WHICH I MIGHT DISCOVER WHO BRUCE BANNER WAS.
AND JUST WHO IS BRUCE BANNER...
...AND DOES HE ALWAYS GO FOR LONG WALKS ABOUT THE COUNTRY-SIDE--
--DRESSED ONLY IN A VERY BECOMING PAIR OF PURPLE SHORTS?
DR. BANNER, FROM THE DATA SHIELD FORWARDED US LAST WEEK, I RECOGNIZE OUR VISITOR AS DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO... YOUR NEW RESEARCH ASSISTANT.
DOCTOR--YOU'VE ARRIVED EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. I'M PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO NORTHWIND, DR. WAYNESBORO. I'VE READ YOUR MONOGRAPHS ON GAMMA RADIATION.
THEY WERE THE REASON I AGREED TO TAKE YOU ON. AS FOR MY ATTIRE...
NO NEED TO EXPLAIN, DOCTOR. I, OF COURSE, KNOW YOUR WORK. IT WAS REQUIRED READING WHEN I WAS A GRADUATE STUDENT.
4

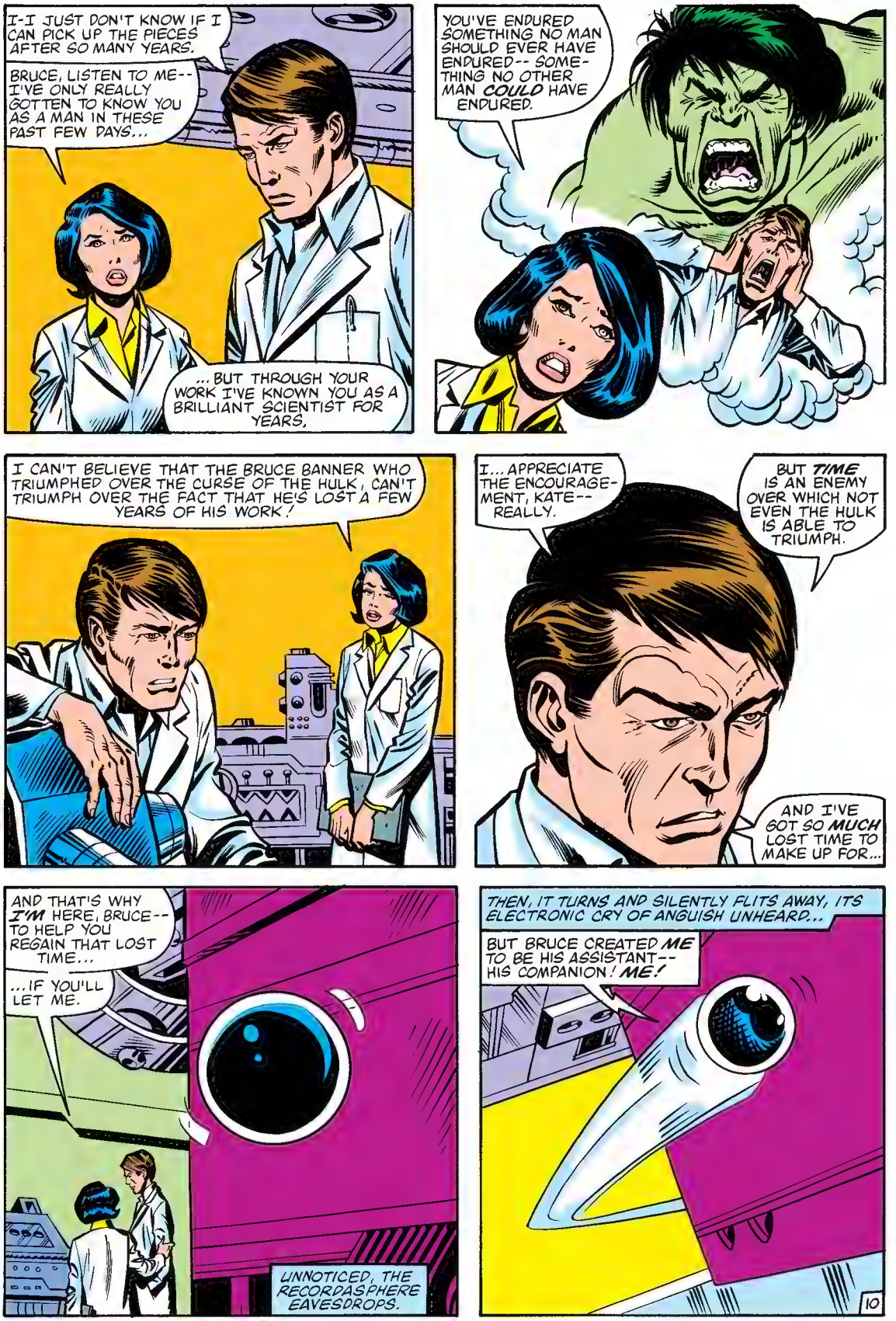
AS FOR YOUR... ECCENTRICITIES--
--I DARESAY THERE'S VERY LITTLE REGARDING YOUR DUAL EXISTENCE AS THE INCREDIBLE HULK THAT'S NOT ON THE PUBLIC RECORD THESE DAYS.
I SUPPOSE NOT, DOCTOR. NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I IMAGINE THERE'S NOT MUCH HOPE THAT I'LL EVER AGAIN MANAGE TO BE A TRULY PRIVATE PERSON.
BUT AS WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING TOGETHER HERE AT NORTHWIND, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET USED TO FROM THE START.
PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID, DR. WAYNESBORO.
I'M GOING TO TRIGGER THE TRANSFORMATION NOT TO SCARE YOU... BUT TO PREPARE YOU.
REALLY, DR. BANNER, THERE'S NO NEED. I'VE READ ABOUT THE HULK'S EXPLOITS--
--AND SEEN FOOTAGE OF YOUR EMERALD ALTER-EGO IN ACTION ON THE TELEVISION NEWS.
BESIDES, I AM A SCIENTIST USED TO WITNESSING THE STARTLING, THE UNEXPLAINED.
SO I DON'T REALLY THINK YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY BECOMING UPSET AT THE SIGHT OF...
OH, MY GOODNESS! DR. BANNER!
CALL ME BRUCE, DR. WAYNESBORO... OR CALL ME THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
Y-YES, I--I CAN SEE HOW THAT COULD TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO!
5

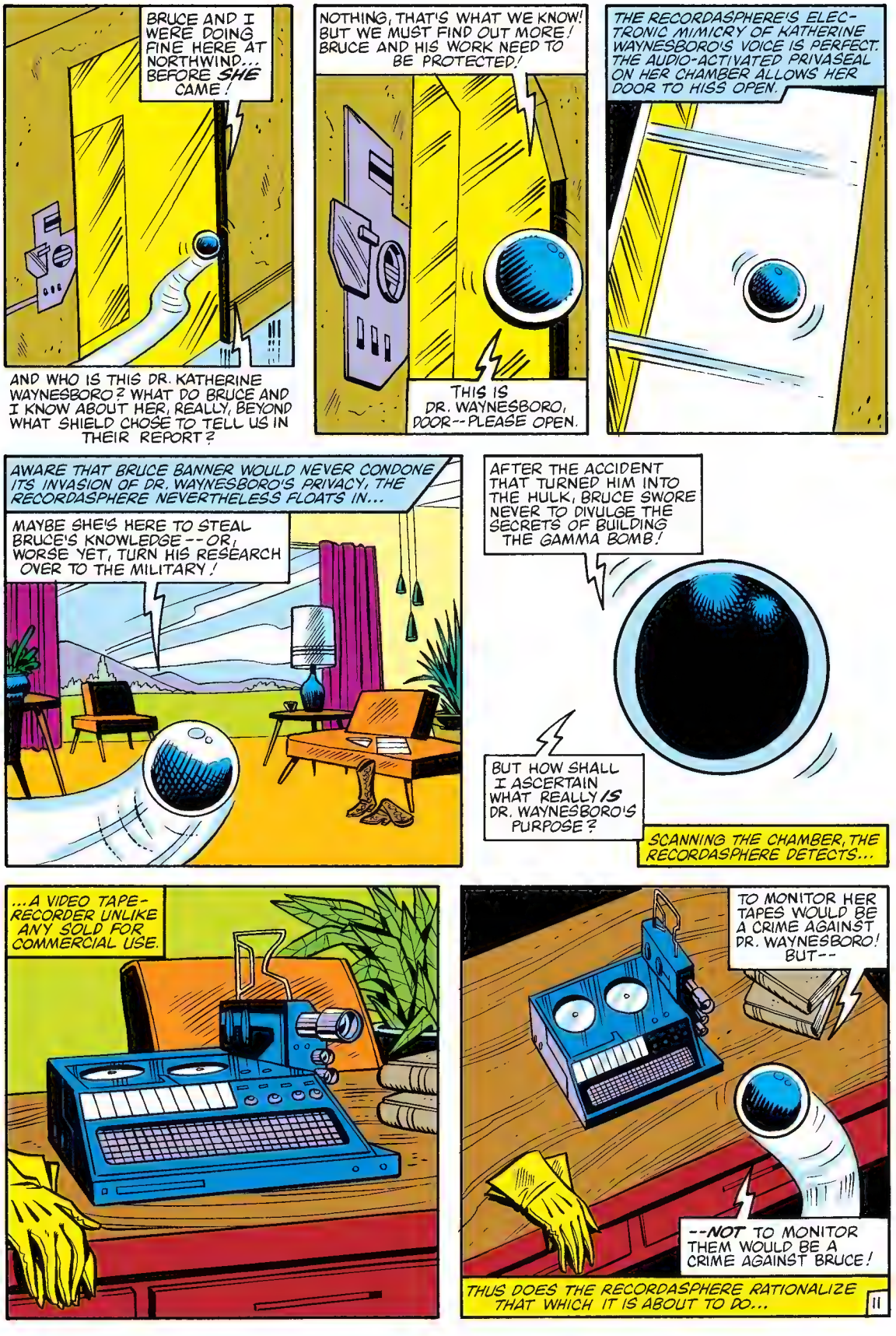

SOME... BUT NOT TOO MUCH!
AND PLEASE--CALL ME KATE.
WELCOME TO NORTHWIND, THEN, DR. WAYNESBORO... KATE!
THIS IS THE RECORDA-SPHERE. I INVENTED HER.
SHE'S BEEN MY SOLE COMPANION--AIDING IN AND RECORDING MY RESEARCH--
...UNTIL NOW.
MAY I SEE THE REST OF NORTHWIND, DR. BANNER? BRUCE, I MEAN! I'D LIKE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THIS FACILITY... AND ABOUT YOU!
THEY GO OFF, LEAVING THE FLOATING SILVER SPHERE, SOLITARY AND FORGOTTEN.
FROM IT, STRANGE SOUNDS EMIT ...ALMOST AS IF IT WERE MUTTERING ANGRILY TO ITSELF.
THIS...IS HOLLYWOOD!
THE HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION ABOVE THE THEATER MARQUEE IS FRIGHTENINGLY LIFELIKE.
HARVEY KECK PRESENTS BEREET'S NEW DIMENSIAVISION EPIC GALACTIC ATTACK!
HARVEY KE NEW DIME GALAC
THE MOVIE PREMIERING HERE HAS NOT BEEN GREETED WITH UNANIMOUS APPROBATION.
REET FAIR TO UMAN TORS! ENACTOR'S N 789
HARV NEW GAL
REET PUTS STAGE CREWS OUT OF WORK!
"ALIEN," GO HOME!
BUT THERE ARE THOSE, NONETHELESS, WHO WISH TO VIEW IT...
WHY DON'T YOU PICKET IN POUGHKEEPSIE AND LET US SEE THE MOVIE?!
WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT SPECIAL EFFECTS?
6

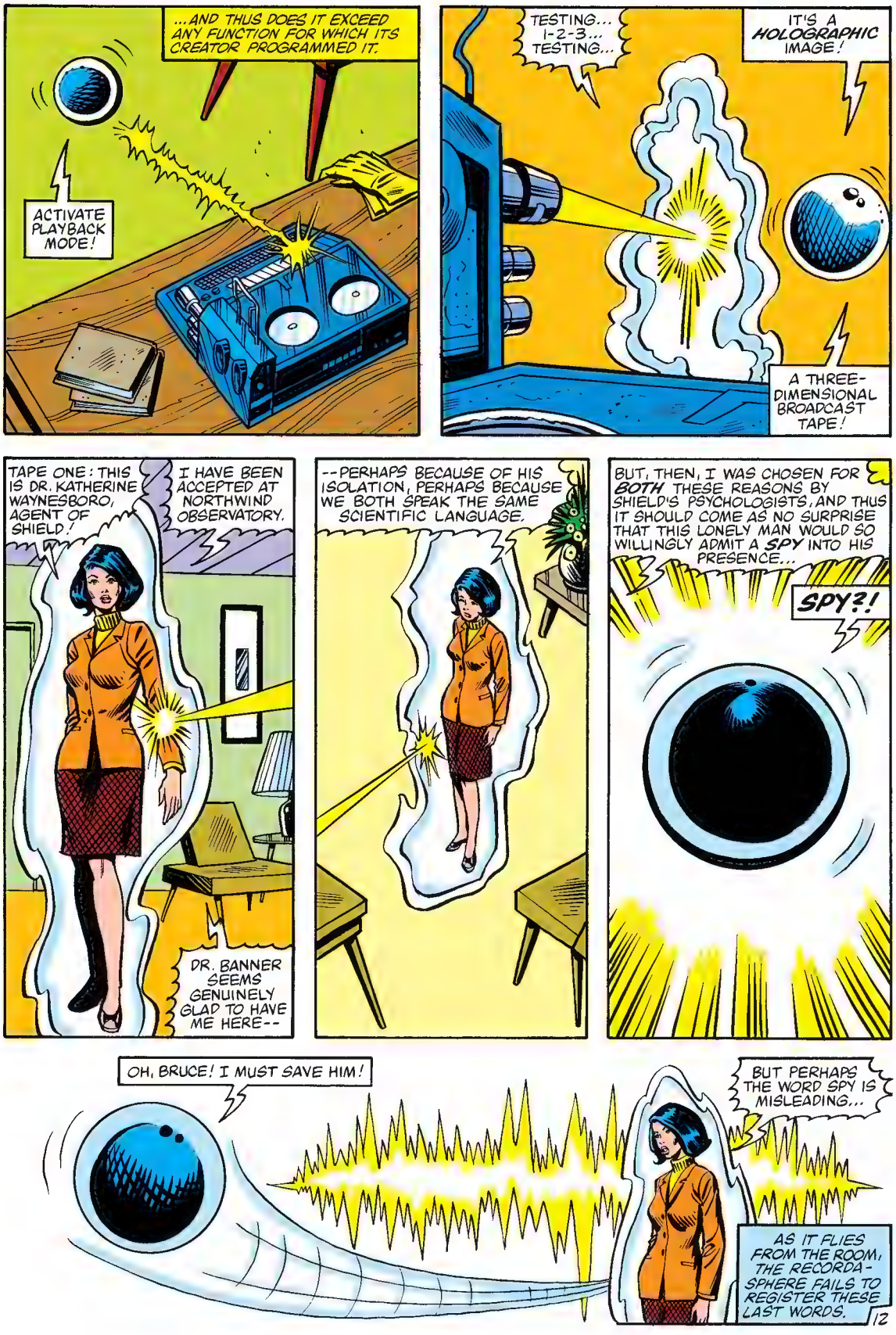
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN TO OUR GRIEVANCES ?
THIS BEREET WEIRDO APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE AND MAKES A MAJOR MOVIE WITH SOME SPECIAL TECHNIQUE--
--THAT REQUIRES ABSOLUTELY NO HUMAN INVOLVEMENT! WE'RE WRITERS, ACTORS, TECHNICIANS, DIRECTORS... PEOPLE WITH FAMILIES TO SUPPORT! WE WANT TO PROTECT OUR JOBS!
AH, YOU UNION GUYS HAVE BEEN PADDING PAYROLLS FOR YEARS!
THAT'S A LIE--!
BALONEY! GET OUTTA MY WAY! I BOUGHT MY TICKETS -- I WANNA SEE THE SHOW!
THAT GOES FOR ME TOO!
RIGHT!
PRESENTS BEREET'S
ENSIAVISION EPIC
ICTIC ATTACK!
THUS DOES THE FASCINATION WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY...
...LEAVE MUCH HUMAN TALENT, LIKE FORGOTTEN FLOTSAM, IN ITS WAKE.
7


OBSERVING...
YOU WERE RIGHT, HARVEY.
THE MOB IGNORED THE PICKET LINE AND PUSHED THEIR WAY IN TO SEE MY FILM.
BLASTED RIGHT, BIRD-LADY! PEOPLE WANT TO BE ENTERTAINED, AND THEY DON'T CARE *HOW* THEIR ENTERTAINMENT GETS MADE!
BUT IF I HAVE REALLY COST OTHERS THEIR EMPLOYMENT...
YOU LISTEN TO ME, BEREET! TIMES ARE TOUGH! TO SURVIVE THESE DAYS YA GOTTA COMPETE!
COMPETITION MEANS COMIN' UP WITH SOMETHIN' NEW, SOMETHIN' DIFFERENT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU DID! I DUNNO HOW-- I'M JUST THE MONEY MAN, THE PRODUCER!
YOU'RE THE FILM-MAKER, THE ARTISTE!
YOU CAME OUTTA NOWHERE WITH THAT CRAZY "ALIEN" ROUTINE...
BUT I *AM* AN ALIEN, FROM THE PLANET KRYLOR!
LOOK, BIRD-LADY-- IF YOU WANNA PRETEND YOU'RE FROM MONGO, HERE ON SPECIAL LEAVE FROM MING THE MERCILESS, THAT'S YOUR SCENE!
I CAN DIG IT! MY OWN KID WEARS A HAIRDO LIKE YOURS! DRIVES HER MOTHER CRAZY!
ME, ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THAT YOU CAME OUTTA NOWHERE WITH SOME SPECIAL-EFFECTS TECHNIQUE THAT'S GROSSIN' ZECK PICTURES, INC., *MILLIONS!*
LIKE THAT TECHNO-ART DOCUDRAMA YOU MADE ABOUT THE *HULK*, FOR INSTANCE!
I TRIED TO TELL THE STORY OF THE *REAL* HULK...
FORGET REALITY! IT DON'T SELL!
WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN A WALKIN' FANTASY LIKE *YOU*, BIRD-LADY!
I WISH TO BE REGARDED AS A SERIOUS ARTIST... BUT ON BOTH KRYLOR AND EARTH I HAVE BECOME MERELY A PANDERER TO THE PUBLIC TASTE!
8

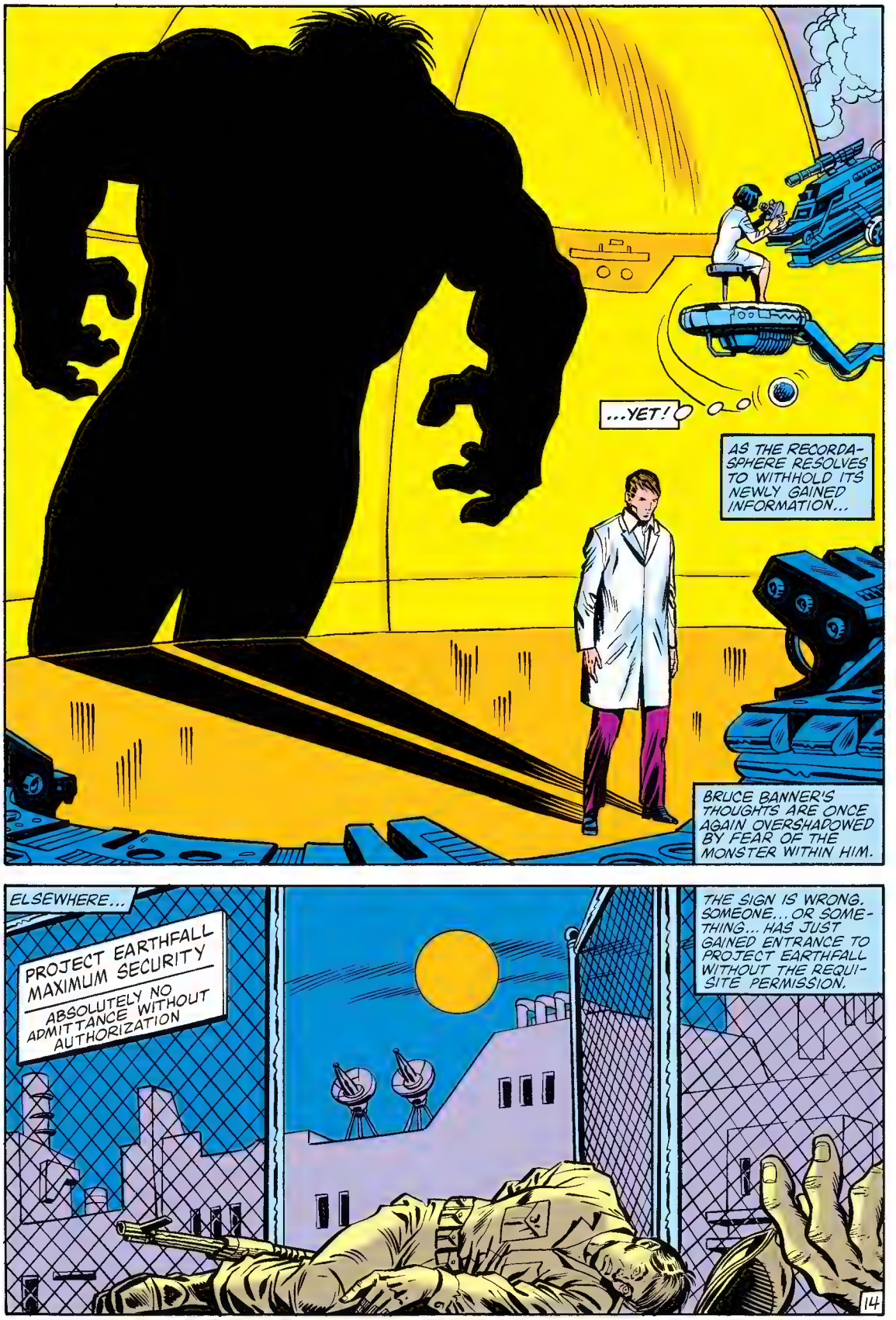

A FEW DAYS LATER AND A FEW THOUSAND MILES FURTHER EAST...
OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE HERE AT NORTHWIND, KATE, IS TO INTERPRET THE DATA GATHERED BY THE GAMMASCOPE.
AS YOU KNOW, GAMMA RAYS FIRST TRANSFORMED ME INTO THE HULK BY RADICALLY ALTERING MY GENETIC STRUCTURE.
BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE EXPOSED TO A MASSIVE INFUSION WHEN YOU WERE CAUGHT IN THE DETONATION OF THE FIRST GAMMA BOMB.
TRUE, BUT EVERY DAY THE EARTH IS BOMBARDED BY GAMMA ACTIVITY OF ONE TYPE OR ANOTHER. MOST OF IT IS FILTERED OUT IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE. BUT SOME OF IT REACHES THE PLANET'S SURFACE... AND EARTH'S INHABITANTS.
MY CONCERN IS WITH THE SUBTLE MUTATIVE EFFECTS OF THAT DAILY GAMMA SHOWER ON THE HUMAN RACE.
THAT WAS THE FOCUS OF YOUR EARLIEST PAPERS, BRUCE!
YES, IT WAS THE SUBJECT THAT FASCINATED ME AS A STUDENT--THAT PREOCCUPIED ME AS A PHYSICIST.
IT WAS MY LIFE'S WORK, KATE, BEFORE MY LIFE TOOK A DETOUR WHEN I BECAME...
THE HULK?
MY RESEARCH ENDED SUDDENLY, COMPLETELY...
9

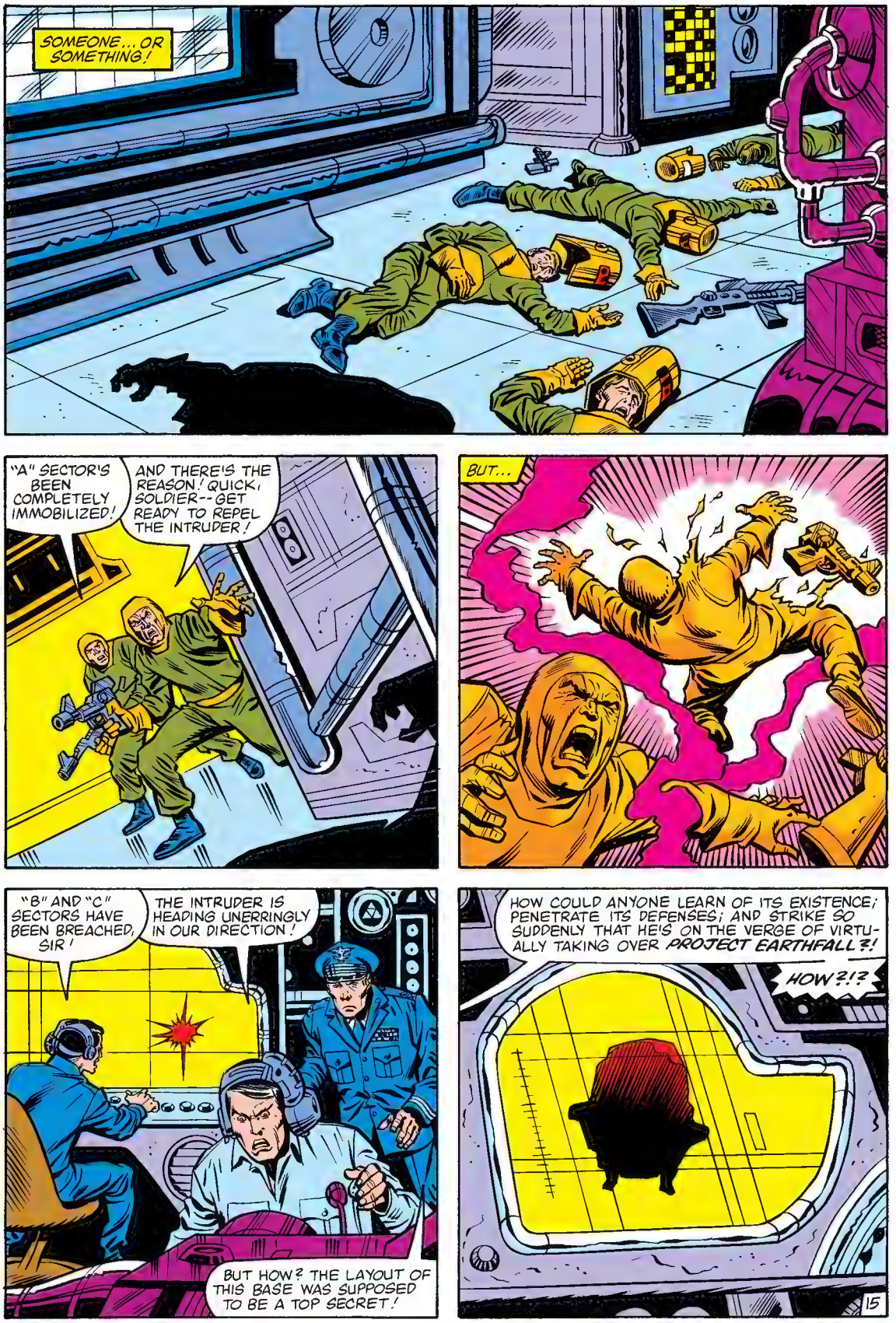

I-I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN PICK UP THE PIECES AFTER SO MANY YEARS.
BRUCE, LISTEN TO ME-- I'VE ONLY REALLY GOTTEN TO KNOW YOU AS A MAN IN THESE PAST FEW DAYS...
...BUT THROUGH YOUR WORK I'VE KNOWN YOU AS A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST FOR YEARS,
YOU'VE ENDURED SOMETHING NO MAN SHOULD EVER HAVE ENDURED-- SOMETHING NO OTHER MAN COULD HAVE ENDURED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE BRUCE BANNER WHO TRIUMPHED OVER THE CURSE OF THE HULK, CAN'T TRIUMPH OVER THE FACT THAT HE'S LOST A FEW YEARS OF HIS WORK!
I...APPRECIATE THE ENCOURAGEMENT, KATE-- REALLY.
BUT TIME IS AN ENEMY OVER WHICH NOT EVEN THE HULK IS ABLE TO TRIUMPH.
AND I'VE GOT SO MUCH LOST TIME TO MAKE UP FOR...
AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, BRUCE-- TO HELP YOU REGAIN THAT LOST TIME...
...IF YOU'LL LET ME.
UNNOTICED, THE RECORDASPHERE EAVESDROPS.
THEN, IT TURNS AND SILENTLY FLITS AWAY, ITS ELECTRONIC CRY OF ANGUISH UNHEARD...
BUT BRUCE CREATED ME TO BE HIS ASSISTANT-- HIS COMPANION! ME!
10


BRUCE AND I WERE DOING FINE HERE AT NORTHWIND... BEFORE SHE CAME!
AND WHO IS THIS DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO? WHAT DO BRUCE AND I KNOW ABOUT HER, REALLY, BEYOND WHAT SHIELD CHOSE TO TELL US IN THEIR REPORT?
NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT WE KNOW! BUT WE MUST FIND OUT MORE! BRUCE AND HIS WORK NEED TO BE PROTECTED!
THIS IS DR. WAYNESBORO, DOOR--PLEASE OPEN.
THE RECORDASPHERE'S ELECTRONIC MIMICRY OF KATHERINE WAYNESBORO'S VOICE IS PERFECT. THE AUDIO-ACTIVATED PRIVASEAL ON HER CHAMBER ALLOWS HER DOOR TO HISS OPEN.
AWARE THAT BRUCE BANNER WOULD NEVER CONDONE ITS INVASION OF DR. WAYNESBORO'S PRIVACY, THE RECORDASPHERE NEVERTHELESS FLOATS IN...
MAYBE SHE'S HERE TO STEAL BRUCE'S KNOWLEDGE--OR, WORSE YET, TURN HIS RESEARCH OVER TO THE MILITARY!
AFTER THE ACCIDENT THAT TURNED HIM INTO THE HULK, BRUCE SWORE NEVER TO DIVULGE THE SECRETS OF BUILDING THE GAMMA BOMB!
BUT HOW SHALL I ASCERTAIN WHAT REALLY IS DR. WAYNESBORO'S PURPOSE?
SCANNING THE CHAMBER, THE RECORDASPHERE DETECTS...
...A VIDEO TAPE-RECORDER UNLIKE ANY SOLD FOR COMMERCIAL USE.
TO MONITOR HER TAPES WOULD BE A CRIME AGAINST DR. WAYNESBORO! BUT--
--NOT TO MONITOR THEM WOULD BE A CRIME AGAINST BRUCE!
THUS DOES THE RECORDASPHERE RATIONALIZE THAT WHICH IT IS ABOUT TO DO...
11


...AND THUS DOES IT EXCEED ANY FUNCTION FOR WHICH ITS CREATOR PROGRAMMED IT.
ACTIVATE PLAYBACK MODE!
TESTING... 1-2-3... TESTING...
IT'S A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE!
A THREE-DIMENSIONAL BROADCAST TAPE!
TAPE ONE: THIS IS DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO, AGENT OF SHIELD!
I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AT NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY.
DR. BANNER SEEMS GENUINELY GLAD TO HAVE ME HERE--
--PERHAPS BECAUSE OF HIS ISOLATION, PERHAPS BECAUSE WE BOTH SPEAK THE SAME SCIENTIFIC LANGUAGE.
BUT, THEN, I WAS CHOSEN FOR BOTH THESE REASONS BY SHIELD'S PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND THUS IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT THIS LONELY MAN WOULD SO WILLINGLY ADMIT A SPY INTO HIS PRESENCE...
SPY?!
OH, BRUCE! I MUST SAVE HIM!
BUT PERHAPS THE WORD SPY IS MISLEADING...
AS IT FLIES FROM THE ROOM, THE RECORDA-SPHERE FAILS TO REGISTER THESE LAST WORDS.
12

MEANWHILE, DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO, AGENT OF SHIELD, IS ABOUT TO GET HER FIRST "HANDS-ON" INITIATION INTO THE WORKINGS OF BRUCE BANNER'S GAMMASCOPE...
I'VE NEVER BEFORE PEERED SO FAR OUT INTO SPACE, BRUCE.
YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY "SEEING" OUT INTO SPACE NOW, KATE. THE GAMMASCOPE WORKS ON A DIFFERENT PRINCIPLE THAN MOST TELESCOPES.
IN MOST WAYS, IT'S MORE ANALAGOUS TO RADIO-ASTRONOMY--A SCIENCE THAT PAINTS RADIO-WAVE PORTRAITS OF THE COSMOS.
WE'RE PAINTING GAMMA RAY PORTRAITS WHICH THE GAMMASCOPE'S COMPUTERS THEN RESOLVE AND ENHANCE INTO VISUAL IMAGES.
AND THE PICTURE THAT'S EMERGING IS A DISTURBING ONE.
GAMMA RAY ACTIVITY IN THE COSMOS IS INCREASING IN INTENSITY. THE RAYS ARE PENETRATING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IN EVER-INCREASING DOSAGES.
HOW HORRIBLE, BRUCE, GIVEN WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE GAMMA RAY EFFECT OF TURNING MEN INTO MONSTERS!
YES... MONSTERS!
OH, BRUCE--DR. BANNER! I-I WASN'T REFERRING TO YOU!
OF COURSE YOU WERE. WHAT COULD BE MORE NATURAL. I WAS A MONSTER, FOR MANY YEARS.
I MAY SOMEDAY BECOME A MONSTER AGAIN--
--SHOULD I EVER LOSE THE HOLD BRUCE BANNER'S INTELLECT NOW EXERCISES OVER THE ENORMOUS POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
ONE ASPECT OF MY RESEARCH IS TO PREVENT THAT FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN.
NOW LET'S GET BACK TO WORK, SHALL WE, DR. WAYNESBORO?
SHE SLIPPED--LET OUT HER TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT HIM! HE DISTRUSTS HER NOW! GOOD! HE'LL BE ON HIS GUARD AGAINST HER!
MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO REVEAL HER FOR THE SPY SHE IS...
13

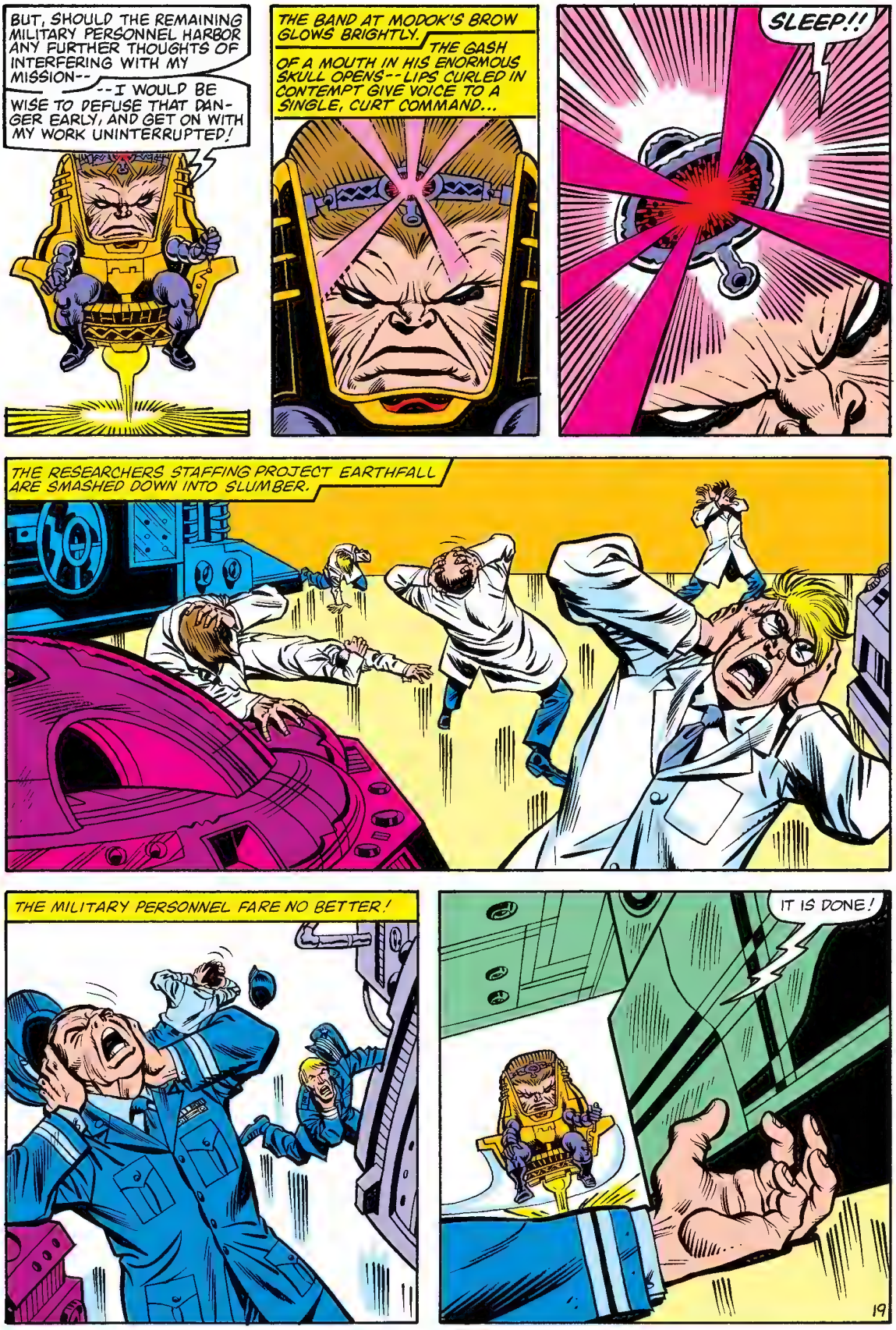

...YET!
AS THE RECORDA-SPHERE RESOLVES TO WITHHOLD ITS NEWLY GAINED INFORMATION...
BRUCE BANNER'S THOUGHTS ARE ONCE AGAIN OVERSHADOWED BY FEAR OF THE MONSTER WITHIN HIM.
ELSEWHERE...
PROJECT EARTHFALL MAXIMUM SECURITY
ABSOLUTELY NO ADMITTANCE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION
THE SIGN IS WRONG. SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING... HAS JUST GAINED ENTRANCE TO PROJECT EARTHFALL WITHOUT THE REQUISITE PERMISSION.
14

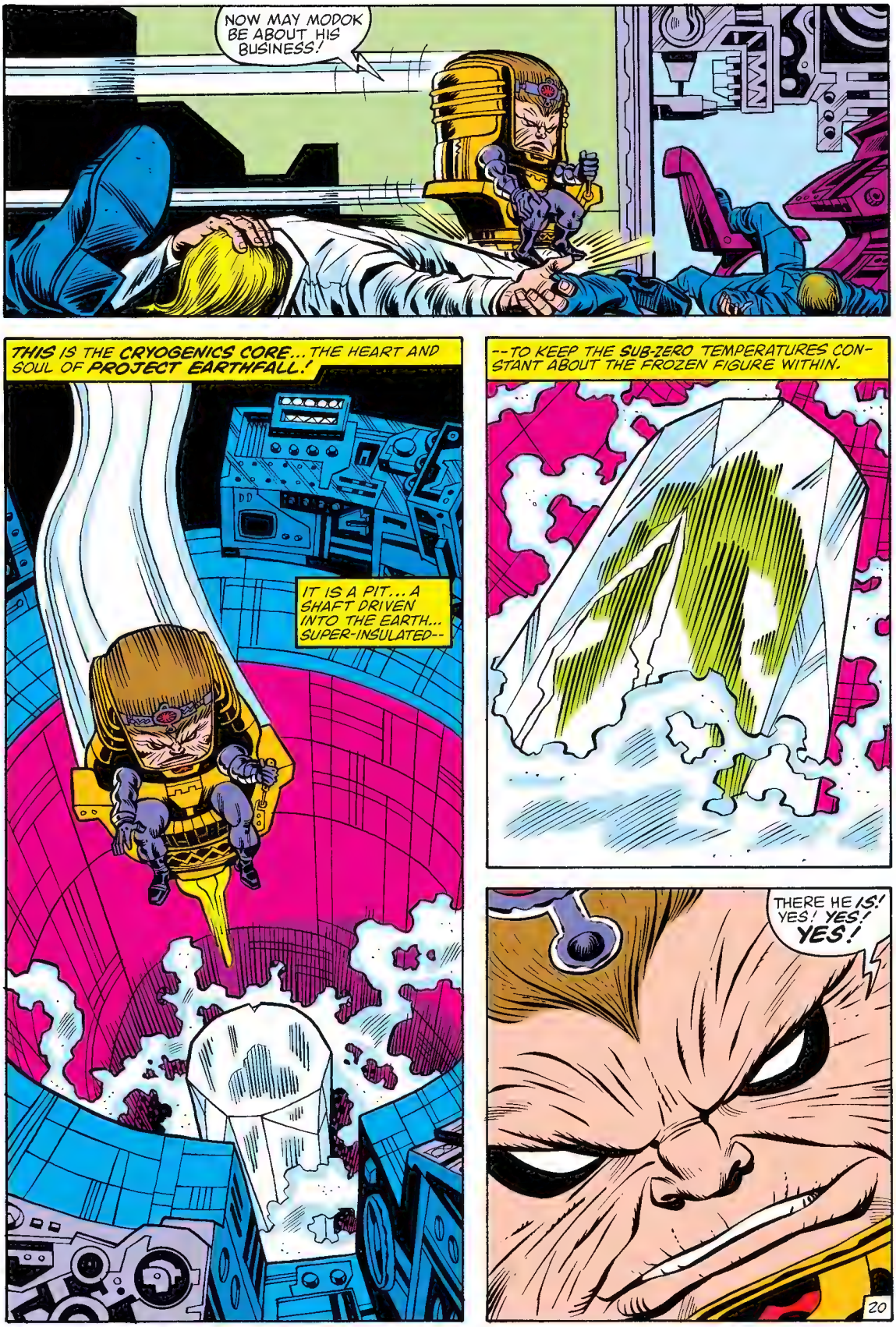

SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING!
"A" SECTOR'S BEEN COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED!
AND THERE'S THE REASON! QUICK, SOLDIER--GET READY TO REPEL THE INTRUDER!
BUT...
"B" AND "C" SECTORS HAVE BEEN BREACHED, SIR!
THE INTRUDER IS HEADING UNERRINGLY IN OUR DIRECTION!
BUT HOW? THE LAYOUT OF THIS BASE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A TOP SECRET!
HOW COULD ANYONE LEARN OF ITS EXISTENCE; PENETRATE ITS DEFENSES; AND STRIKE SO SUDDENLY THAT HE'S ON THE VERGE OF VIRTUALLY TAKING OVER PROJECT EARTHFALL?!
HOW?!?
15

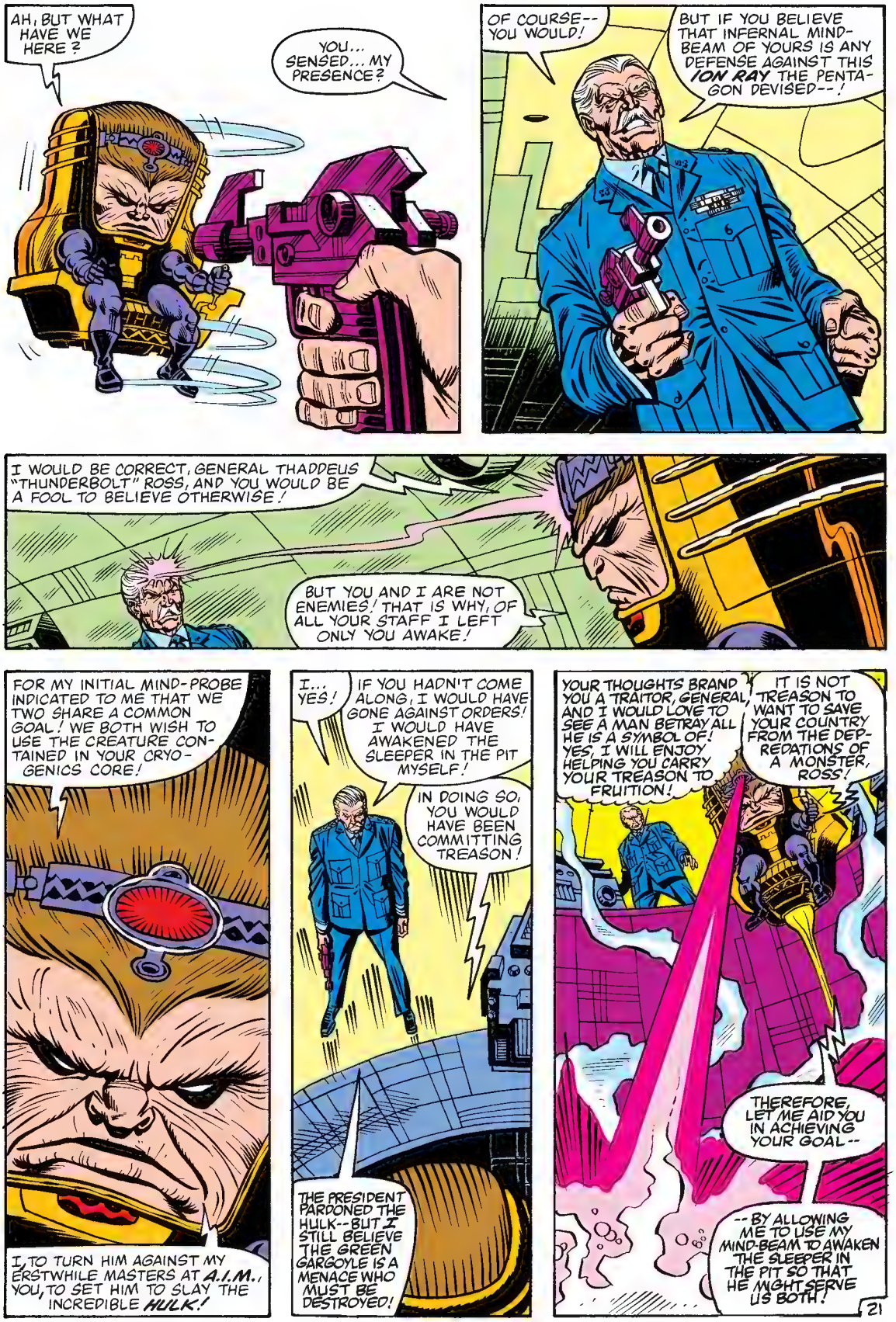
"HOW?" EASILY--WHEN THE BEING IN QUESTION IS A LETHAL LIVING INTELLECT CODE-NAMED BY HIS CREATORS AT ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS*--MENTAL ORGANISM DESIGNED ONLY FOR KILLING...
I AM MODOK!!
I COME FOR THAT WHICH IS CONTAINED WITHIN PROJECT EARTHFALL!
AND THOSE WHO KNOW ME KNOW THAT MODOK SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
*A.I.M. FOR ALL OF YOU ACRONYMOPHILES OUT THERE--EDITORI-AL.
16

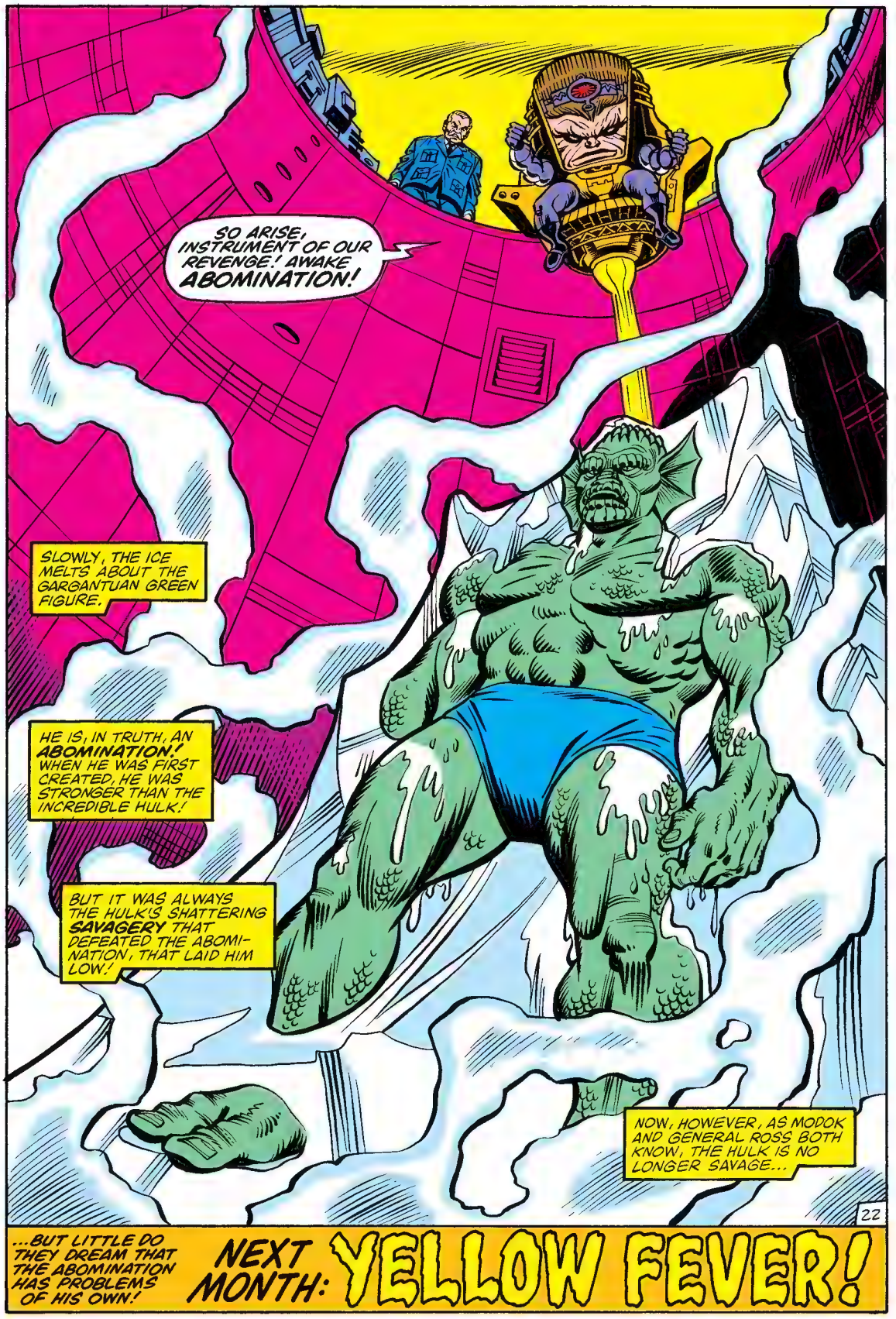
THERE IS NO PLACE MY MATCHLESS MENTAL ABILITIES CANNOT PENETRATE, NO MIND SO SHIELDED THAT I CANNOT PROBE ITS SECRETS--
--NO MYSTERY BURIED SO DEEP THAT MODOK CANNOT UNCOVER IT!
MERE HUMANS DELUDE THEMSELVES IF THEY BELIEVE THEY OR THEIR MACHINES--
--ARE CAPABLE OF ACTING FASTER THAN THE MASTERFUL MIND OF MODOK!
NOR IS THERE ANY WEAPON IN EXISTENCE GREATER THAN THE MARVELOUS MIND-BEAM MODOK COMMANDS!
SPREEAK
THE SCIENTISTS OF A.I.M. CREATED ME TO SERVE THEM; GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ME TO BE FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN THEY DARED DREAM! THEY PAID FOR THEIR ERROR!
MODOK BECAME THEIR MASTER!
BUT NOW, MODOK HAS NEED FOR A NEW SERVANT--ONE HE SHALL FIND WITHIN THE INNERMOST RECESSES OF PROJECT EARTHFALL!
IN THE COMMAND CENTER, THE MILITARY MEN REALIZE THAT MODOK IS NO IDLE BOASTER...
RECHANNEL ALL SECURITY AROUND THE CRYOGENICS CORE! THAT'S WHERE MODOK'S HEADED!
ALERT THE BIG BRASS! HE'LL WANT TO BE READY!
HE'S NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS, SIR! PROJECT EARTHFALL IS HIS FIRST COMMAND SINCE GAMMA BASE ... AND HE'S ON THE VERGE OF LOSING IT TO ONE GUY IN A HOVERCHAIR!
17

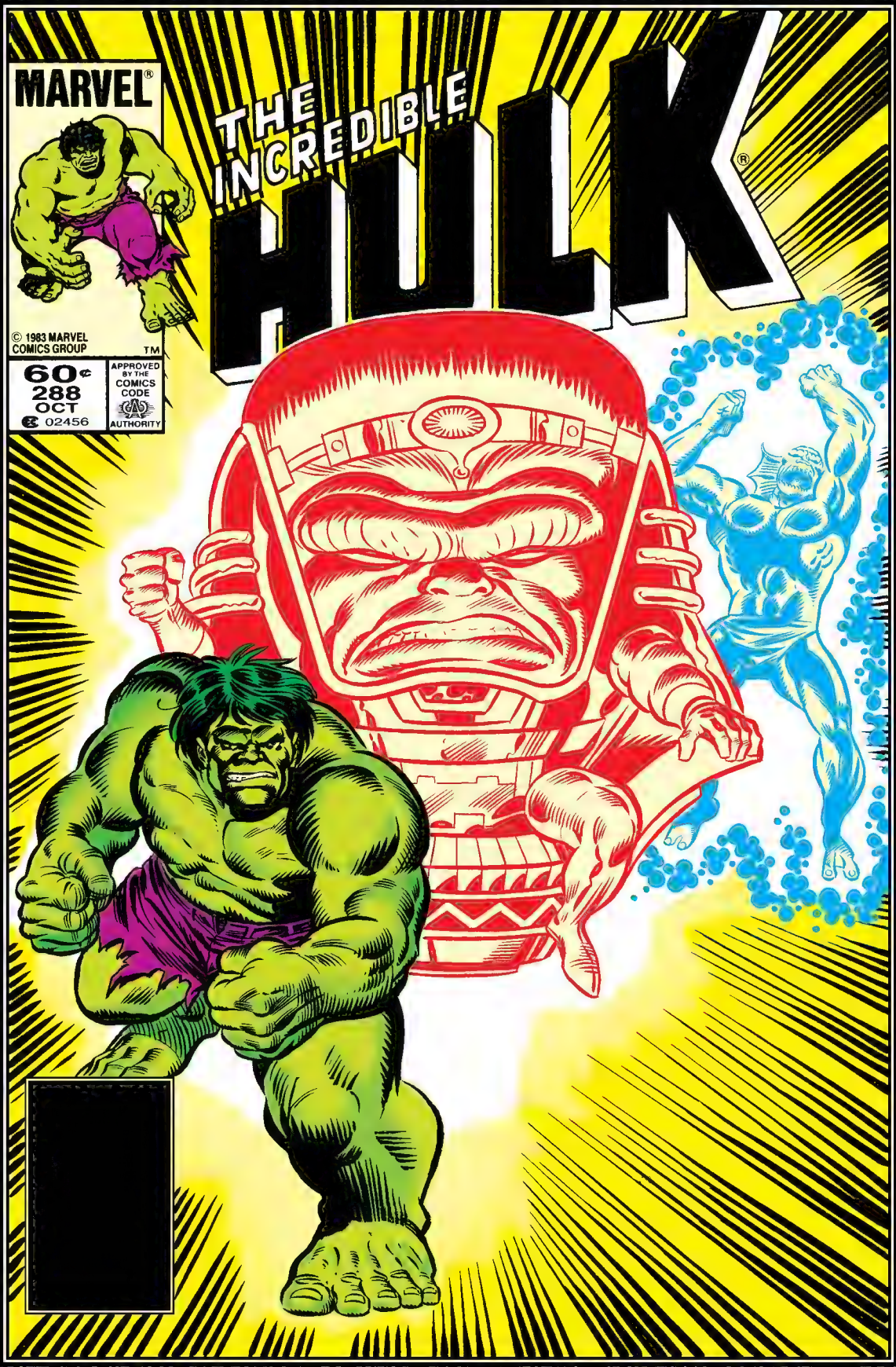
MODOK IS FAR MORE THAN MERELY "ONE GUY IN A HOVERCHAIR."
VREET
VREET
VREET
HE IS A MIND CAPABLE OF DETECTING ANY DANGER... AND OF AVOIDING IT WITH EASE.
HE IS A BRAIN GIVEN MOBILITY BY HIS THOUGHT CONTROLLED MAGNETIC-POWERED MOBILE CHAIR!
AND HE IS AN INTELLECT THAT HAS LEARNED HOW TO FOCUS THE ETHEREAL STUFF OF THOUGHT INTO AN INCALCULABLY POWERFUL, MURDEROUS MIND-BEAM!
SSHHSSS
THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER OBSTACLES BETWEEN ME AND THE CRYOGENICS CORE!
18


BUT, SHOULD THE REMAINING MILITARY PERSONNEL HARBOR ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS OF INTERFERING WITH MY MISSION--
--I WOULD BE WISE TO DEFUSE THAT DANGER EARLY, AND GET ON WITH MY WORK UNINTERRUPTED!
THE BAND AT MODOK'S BROW GLOWS BRIGHTLY.
THE GASH OF A MOUTH IN HIS ENORMOUS SKULL OPENS--LIPS CURLED IN CONTEMPT GIVE VOICE TO A SINGLE, CURT COMMAND...
SLEEP!!
THE RESEARCHERS STAFFING PROJECT EARTHFALL ARE SMASHED DOWN INTO SLUMBER.
THE MILITARY PERSONNEL FARE NO BETTER!
IT IS DONE!
19


NOW MAY MODOK BE ABOUT HIS BUSINESS!
THIS IS THE CRYOGENICS CORE... THE HEART AND SOUL OF PROJECT EARTHFALL!
IT IS A PIT... A SHAFT DRIVEN INTO THE EARTH... SUPER-INSULATED--
--TO KEEP THE SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES CONSTANT ABOUT THE FROZEN FIGURE WITHIN.
THERE HE IS! YES! YES! YES!
20


AH, BUT WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
YOU... SENSED... MY PRESENCE?
OF COURSE-- YOU WOULD!
BUT IF YOU BELIEVE THAT INFERNAL MIND-BEAM OF YOURS IS ANY DEFENSE AGAINST THIS ION RAY THE PENTAGON DEVISED--!
I WOULD BE CORRECT, GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, AND YOU WOULD BE A FOOL TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE!
BUT YOU AND I ARE NOT ENEMIES! THAT IS WHY, OF ALL YOUR STAFF I LEFT ONLY YOU AWAKE!
FOR MY INITIAL MIND-PROBE INDICATED TO ME THAT WE TWO SHARE A COMMON GOAL! WE BOTH WISH TO USE THE CREATURE CONTAINED IN YOUR CRYOGENICS CORE!
I, TO TURN HIM AGAINST MY ERSTWHILE MASTERS AT A.I.M., YOU, TO SET HIM TO SLAY THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
I... YES!
IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG, I WOULD HAVE GONE AGAINST ORDERS! I WOULD HAVE AWAKENED THE SLEEPER IN THE PIT MYSELF!
IN DOING SO, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN COMMITTING TREASON!
THE PRESIDENT PARDONED THE HULK--BUT I STILL BELIEVE THE GREEN GARGOYLE IS A MENACE WHO MUST BE DESTROYED!
YOUR THOUGHTS BRAND YOU A TRAITOR, GENERAL, AND I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A MAN BETRAY ALL HE IS A SYMBOL OF! YES, I WILL ENJOY HELPING YOU CARRY YOUR TREASON TO FRUITION!
IT IS NOT TREASON TO WANT TO SAVE YOUR COUNTRY FROM THE DEPREDATIONS OF A MONSTER, ROSS!
THEREFORE, LET ME AID YOU IN ACHIEVING YOUR GOAL--
--BY ALLOWING ME TO USE MY MIND-BEAM TO AWAKEN THE SLEEPER IN THE PIT SO THAT HE MIGHT SERVE US BOTH!
21


SO ARISE, INSTRUMENT OF OUR REVENGE! AWAKE ABOMINATION!
SLOWLY, THE ICE MELTS ABOUT THE GARGANTUAN GREEN FIGURE.
HE IS, IN TRUTH, AN ABOMINATION! WHEN HE WAS FIRST CREATED, HE WAS STRONGER THAN THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
BUT IT WAS ALWAYS THE HULK'S SHATTERING SAVAGERY THAT DEFEATED THE ABOMINATION, THAT LAID HIM LOW!
NOW, HOWEVER, AS MODOK AND GENERAL ROSS BOTH KNOW, THE HULK IS NO LONGER SAVAGE...
22
...BUT LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT THE ABOMINATION HAS PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN!
NEXT MONTH: YELLOW FEVER!


MARVEL
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
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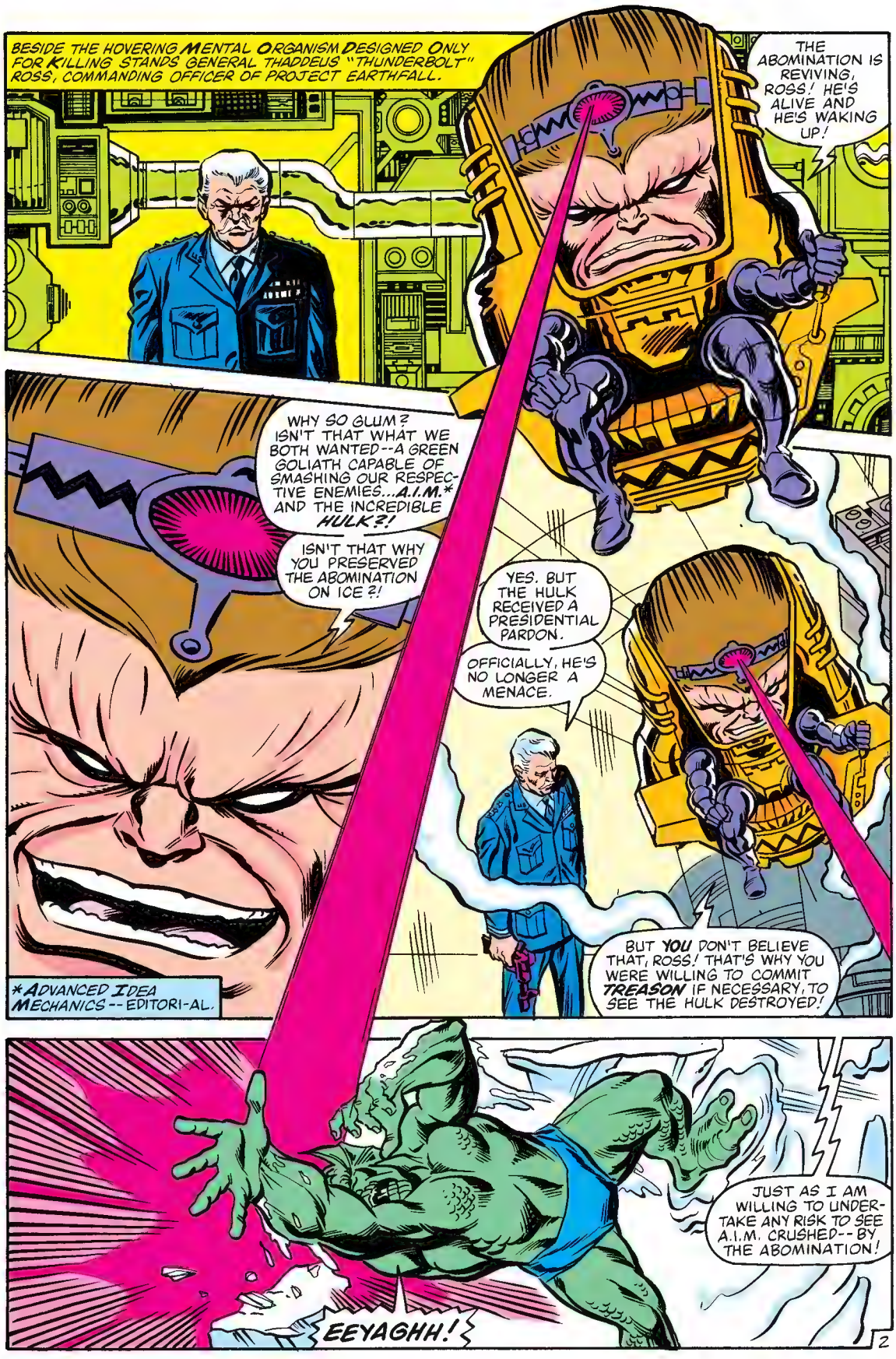
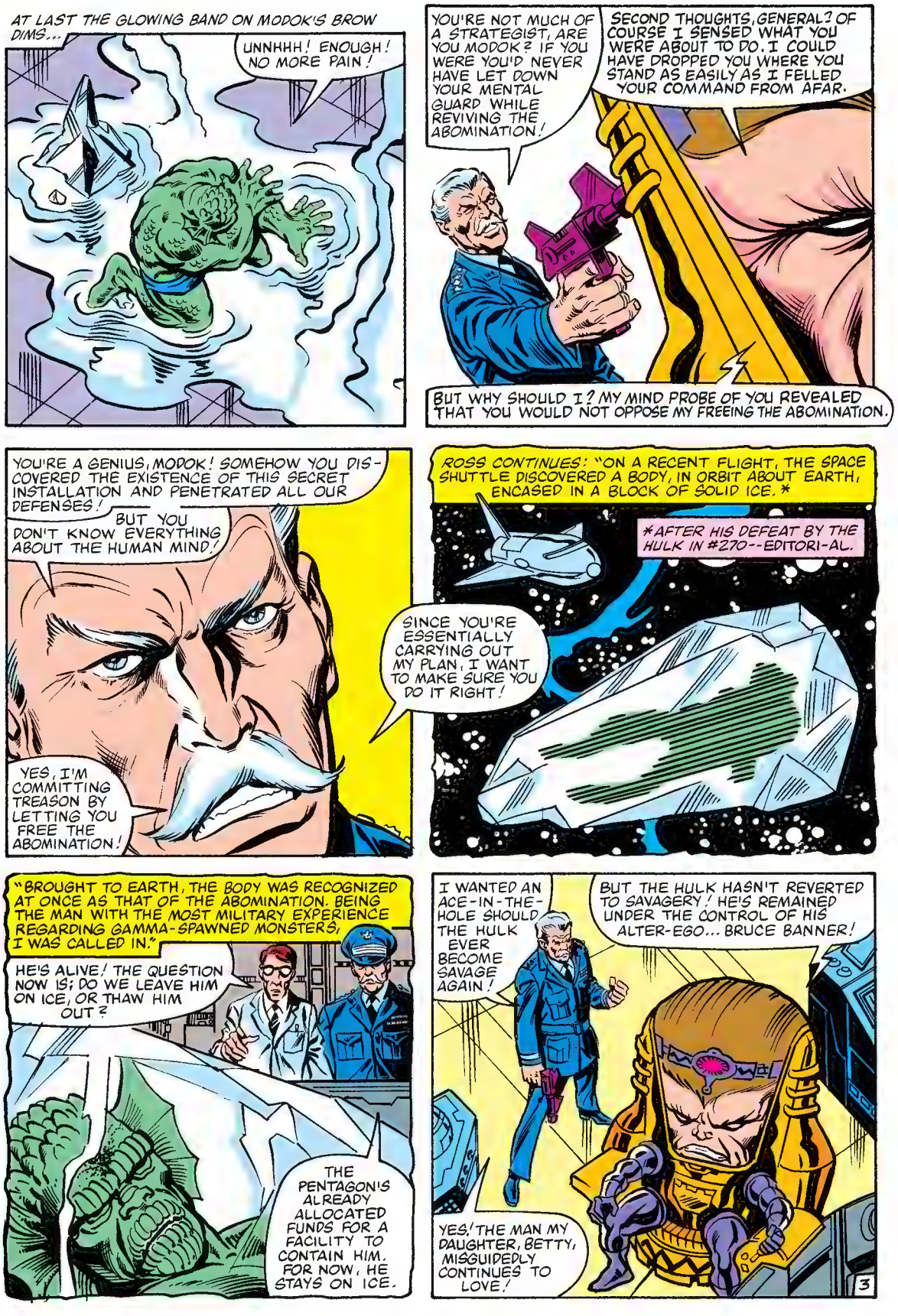
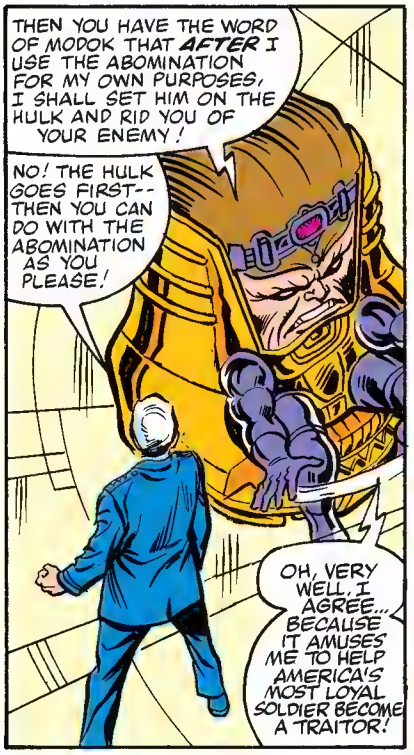
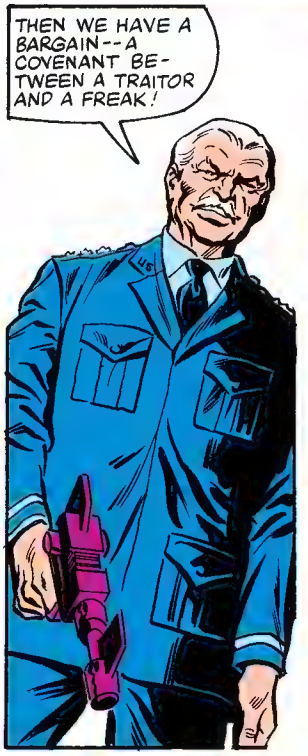
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
BILL MANTLO STORY / SAL BUSCEMA LAYOUTS / JIM MOONEY FINISHES / NOVAK, LETTERER SHAREN, COLORIST / ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER MODOK
ANYONE OUT THERE KNOW HOW TO CURE A CASE OF...
YELLOW FEVER?!
ARISE, ABOMINATION! THE MAN-MIND CALLED MODOK BIDS YOU AWAKE!
AT THE SUBZERO CENTER OF THE CRYOGENICS CORE AT THE U.S. ARMY'S PROJECT EARTHFALL, TEMPERATURES BEGIN TO RISE!
AAGHHH!
THAWED OUT BY MODOK'S MIND-BEAM, THE GREEN GARGANTUA KNOWN AS THE ABOMINATION BEGINS TO SCREAM!


BESIDE THE HOVERING MENTAL ORGANISM DESIGNED ONLY FOR KILLING STANDS GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, COMMANDING OFFICER OF PROJECT EARTHFALL.
THE ABOMINATION IS REVIVING, ROSS! HE'S ALIVE AND HE'S WAKING UP!
WHY SO GLUM? ISN'T THAT WHAT WE BOTH WANTED--A GREEN GOLIATH CAPABLE OF SMASHING OUR RESPECTIVE ENEMIES...A.I.M.* AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK?!
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU PRESERVED THE ABOMINATION ON ICE?!
YES. BUT THE HULK RECEIVED A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON.
OFFICIALLY, HE'S NO LONGER A MENACE.
BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, ROSS! THAT'S WHY YOU WERE WILLING TO COMMIT TREASON IF NECESSARY, TO SEE THE HULK DESTROYED!
*ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS--EDITORI-AL.
JUST AS I AM WILLING TO UNDERTAKE ANY RISK TO SEE A.I.M. CRUSHED--BY THE ABOMINATION!
EEYAGHH!
2

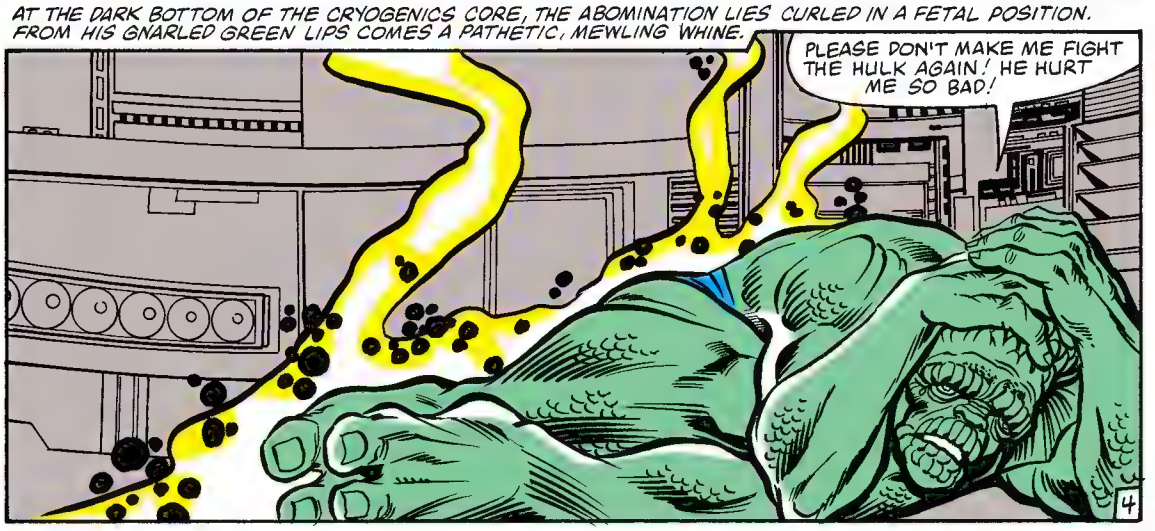

AT LAST THE GLOWING BAND ON MODOK'S BROW DIMS...
UNNHHH! ENOUGH! NO MORE PAIN!
YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A STRATEGIST, ARE YOU MODOK? IF YOU WERE YOU'D NEVER HAVE LET DOWN YOUR MENTAL GUARD WHILE REVIVING THE ABOMINATION!
SECOND THOUGHTS, GENERAL? OF COURSE I SENSED WHAT YOU WERE ABOUT TO DO. I COULD HAVE DROPPED YOU WHERE YOU STAND AS EASILY AS I FELLED YOUR COMMAND FROM AFAR.
BUT WHY SHOULD I? MY MIND PROBE OF YOU REVEALED THAT YOU WOULD NOT OPPOSE MY FREEING THE ABOMINATION.
YOU'RE A GENIUS, MODOK! SOMEHOW YOU DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THIS SECRET INSTALLATION AND PENETRATED ALL OUR DEFENSES!
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE HUMAN MIND!
YES, I'M COMMITTING TREASON BY LETTING YOU FREE THE ABOMINATION!
SINCE YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY CARRYING OUT MY PLAN, I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU DO IT RIGHT!
ROSS CONTINUES: "ON A RECENT FLIGHT, THE SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERED A BODY, IN ORBIT ABOUT EARTH, ENCASED IN A BLOCK OF SOLID ICE. *
*AFTER HIS DEFEAT BY THE HULK IN #270--EDITORI-AL.
"BROUGHT TO EARTH, THE BODY WAS RECOGNIZED AT ONCE AS THAT OF THE ABOMINATION. BEING THE MAN WITH THE MOST MILITARY EXPERIENCE REGARDING GAMMA-SPAWNED MONSTERS, I WAS CALLED IN."
HE'S ALIVE! THE QUESTION NOW IS; DO WE LEAVE HIM ON ICE, OR THAW HIM OUT?
THE PENTAGON'S ALREADY ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR A FACILITY TO CONTAIN HIM. FOR NOW, HE STAYS ON ICE.
I WANTED AN ACE-IN-THE-HOLE SHOULD THE HULK EVER BECOME SAVAGE AGAIN!
BUT THE HULK HASN'T REVERTED TO SAVAGERY! HE'S REMAINED UNDER THE CONTROL OF HIS ALTER-EGO... BRUCE BANNER!
YES! THE MAN MY DAUGHTER, BETTY, MISGUIDEDLY CONTINUES TO LOVE!
3

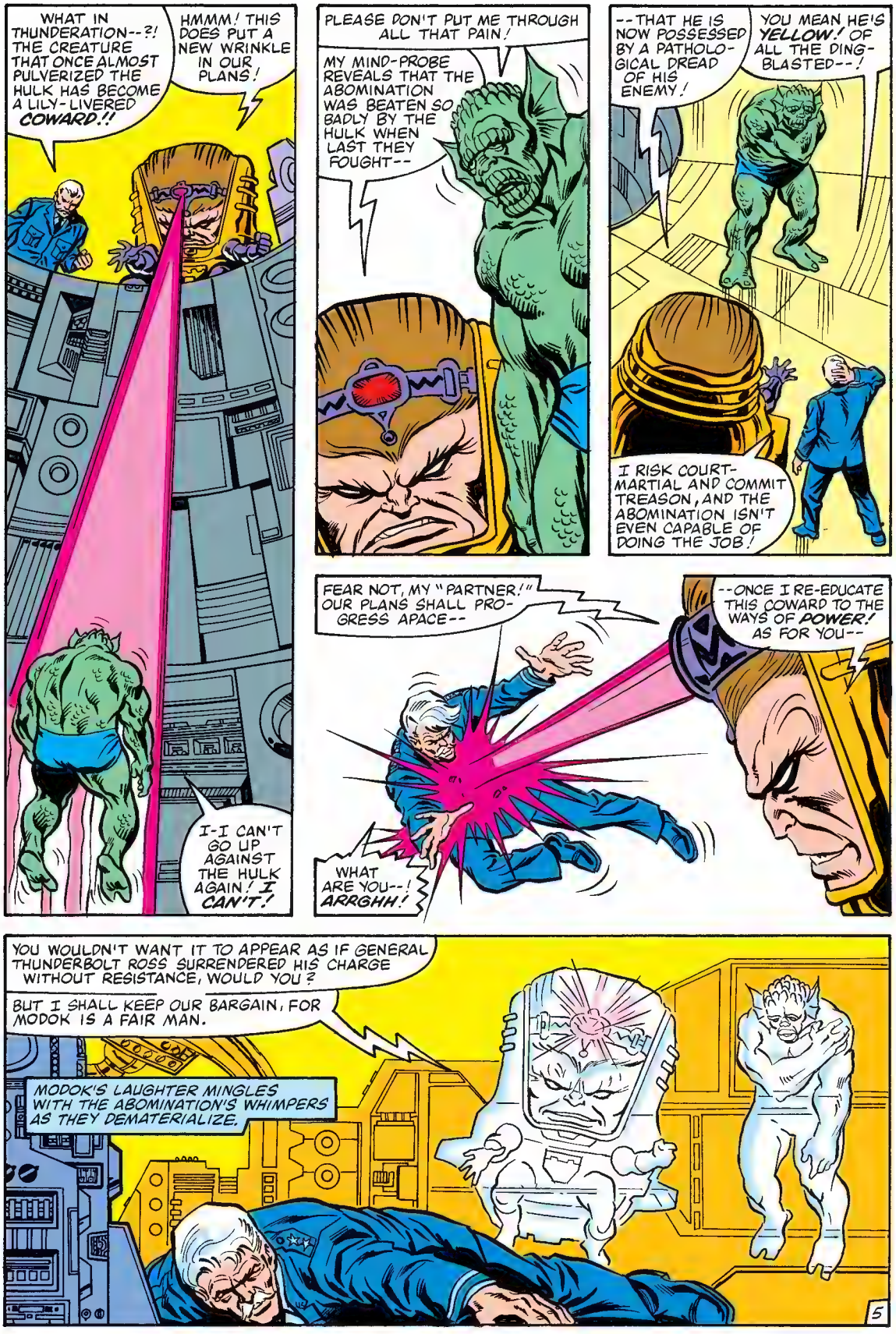
I REALIZED THAT, IF ANYTHING COULD DESTROY THE HULK AND FREE BETTY FROM HER PERVERSE OBSESSION WITH HIM--
--IT WAS ANOTHER GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE... THE ABOMINATION!
YOUR QUANDRY WAS... HOW TO SET THE ABOMINATION ON THE HULK WITHOUT EXPOSING YOUR OWN INVOLVEMENT?
OUR GOALS DOVETAIL! YOU WISH ASSURANCES?


THEN YOU HAVE THE WORD OF MODOK THAT AFTER I USE THE ABOMINATION FOR MY OWN PURPOSES, I SHALL SET HIM ON THE HULK AND RID YOU OF YOUR ENEMY!
NO! THE HULK GOES FIRST-- THEN YOU CAN DO WITH THE ABOMINATION AS YOU PLEASE!
OH, VERY WELL, I AGREE... BECAUSE IT AMUSES ME TO HELP AMERICA'S MOST LOYAL SOLDIER BECOME A TRAITOR!


THEN WE HAVE A BARGAIN-- A COVENANT BE-TWEEN A TRAITOR AND A FREAK!

PLEASE, GENERAL-- THINK OF US RATHER AS TWO BUSINESSMEN ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO ATTAIN A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL GOAL! I, TOO, HAVE REASON TO HATE THE HULK--
--THOUGH MINE ARE PERHAPS NOT SO COMPELLING AS YOURS!
I WILL BE BOUND BY OUR AGREEMENT! THE ABOMINATION WILL BE SET UPON THE HULK!
SHALL WE ASK OUR GAMMA-SPAWNED ASSASSIN HIS OPINION OF THE TASK WE HAVE JUST SET FOR HIM?

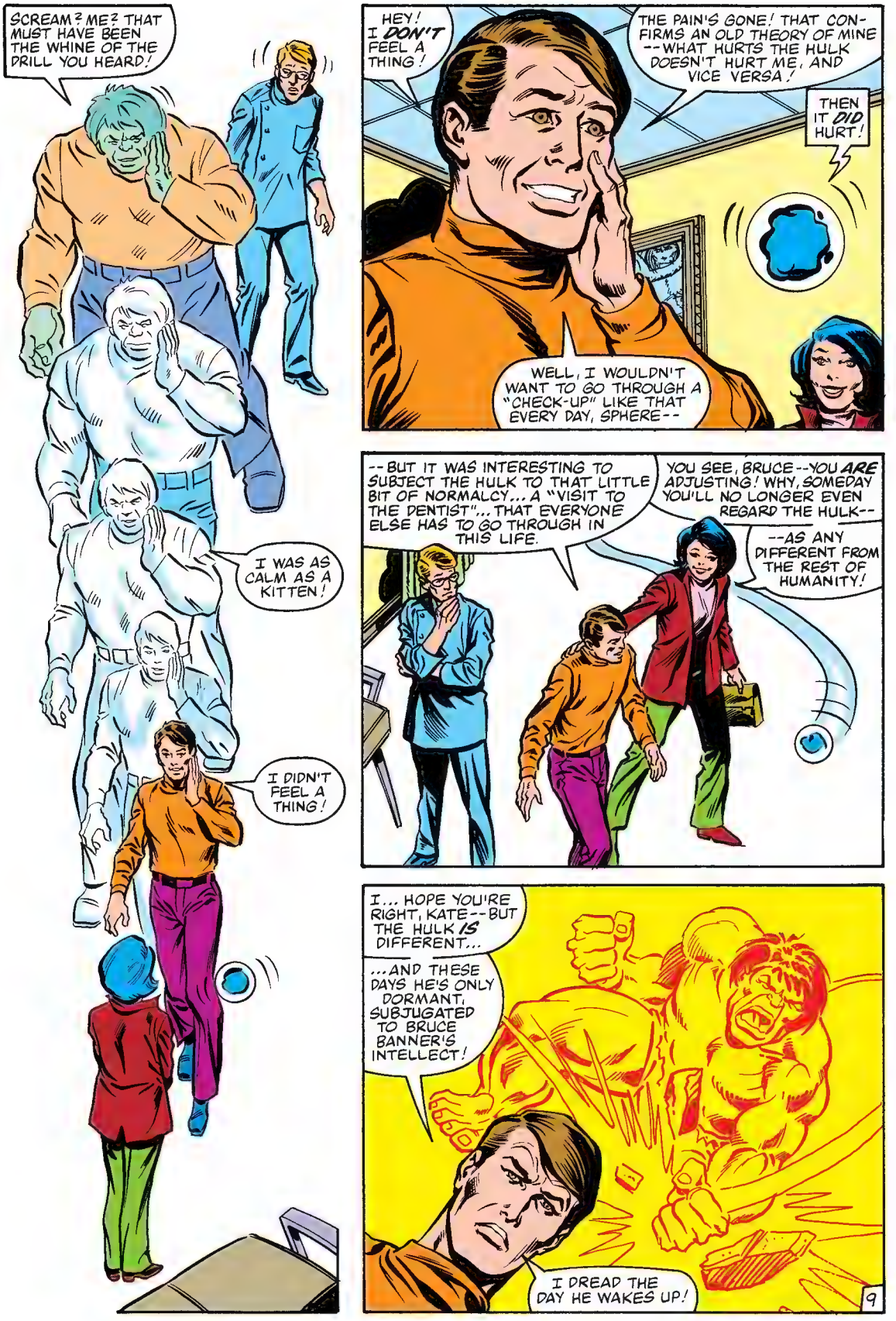

AT THE DARK BOTTOM OF THE CRYOGENICS CORE, THE ABOMINATION LIES CURLED IN A FETAL POSITION. FROM HIS GNARLED GREEN LIPS COMES A PATHETIC, MEWLING WHINE.
PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME FIGHT THE HULK AGAIN! HE HURT ME SO BAD!
4

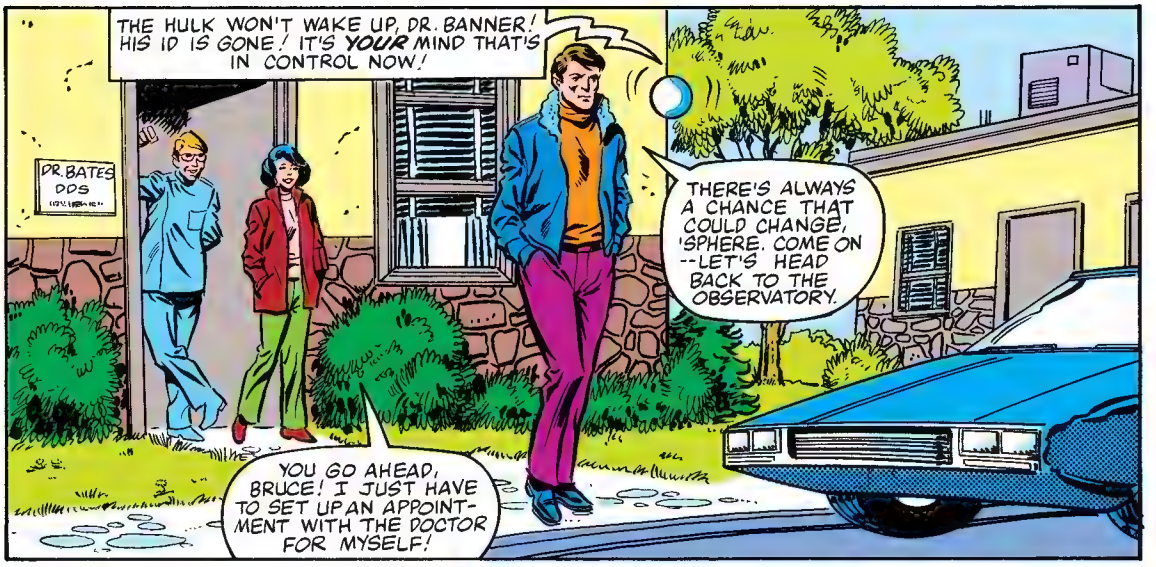

WHAT IN THUNDERATION--?! THE CREATURE THAT ONCE ALMOST PULVERIZED THE HULK HAS BECOME A LILY-LIVERED COWARD!!
HMMM! THIS DOES PUT A NEW WRINKLE IN OUR PLANS!
I-I CAN'T GO UP AGAINST THE HULK AGAIN! I CAN'T!
PLEASE DON'T PUT ME THROUGH ALL THAT PAIN!
MY MIND-PROBE REVEALS THAT THE ABOMINATION WAS BEATEN SO BADLY BY THE HULK WHEN LAST THEY FOUGHT--
--THAT HE IS NOW POSSESSED BY A PATHOLOGICAL DREAD OF HIS ENEMY!
YOU MEAN HE'S YELLOW! OF ALL THE DING-BLASTED--!
I RISK COURT-MARTIAL AND COMMIT TREASON, AND THE ABOMINATION ISN'T EVEN CAPABLE OF DOING THE JOB!
FEAR NOT, MY "PARTNER!" OUR PLANS SHALL PROGRESS APACE--
--ONCE I RE-EDUCATE THIS COWARD TO THE WAYS OF POWER! AS FOR YOU--
WHAT ARE YOU--! ARRGHH!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT IT TO APPEAR AS IF GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS SURRENDERED HIS CHARGE WITHOUT RESISTANCE, WOULD YOU?
BUT I SHALL KEEP OUR BARGAIN; FOR MODOK IS A FAIR MAN.
MODOK'S LAUGHTER MINGLES WITH THE ABOMINATION'S WHIMPERS AS THEY DEMATERIALIZE.
5

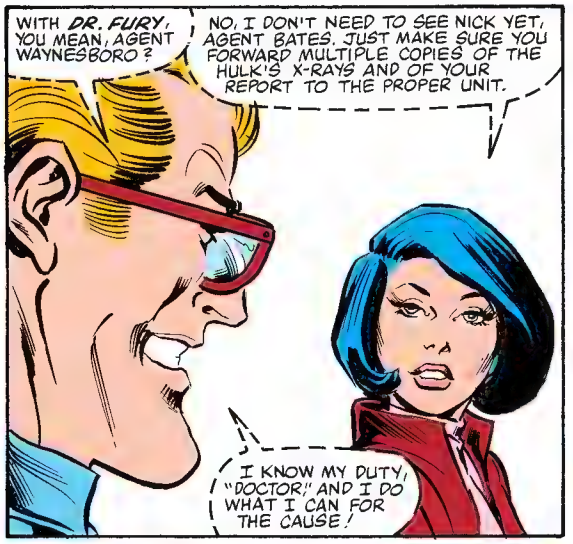
PAIN.
GLLRRARRGHH!
WHO COULD INFLICT SUCH ANGUISH ON THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH ?!!
6

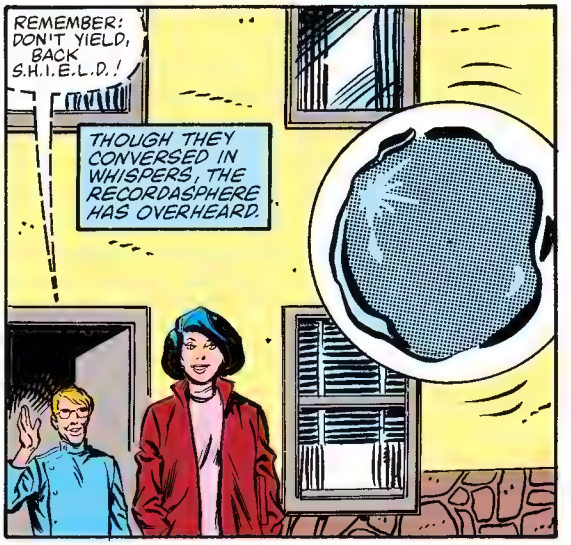
NOW, DR. BANNER, RELAX-- I'VE BARELY STARTED DRILLING!
A LITTLE LASER COULDN'T POSSIBLY CAUSE PAIN TO A BIG GREEN GENT LIKE YOU, COULD IT?
GLAAR-UMMPHH!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT! NOW JUST SIT BACK!
WE JUST NEED TO SHAVE ONE TINY TOOTH SAMPLE, AND THEN WE'LL BE ALL THROUGH!
RAARGHH!
REMARKABLE! NOT A TRACE OF DECAY! DO YOU BRUSH AFTER MEALS?
7

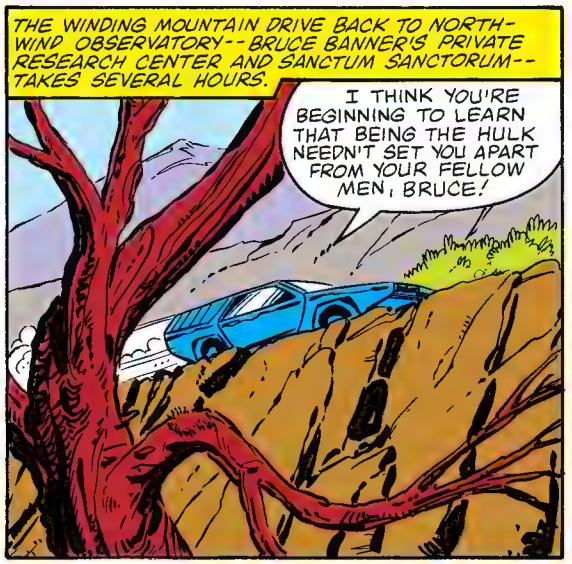
I--OUCH--NEVER SEEM TO NEED TO! AS THE HULK, I APPEAR TO BE IMMUNE TOO--OOH--DISEASE AND INFECTION!
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING?
CAN I ASK WHY YOU DIDN'T--OOH--ANESTHETIZE ME BEFORE EXTRACTING THAT TOOTH SHAVING?
ARE YOU KIDDING? THE AMOUNT OF ANESTHETIC IT WOULD COST TO PUT YOU UNDER WOULD BE ASTRONOMICAL!
BUT I THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PAYING, AS PART OF THEIR STUDY OF THE HULK?
THEY ARE, BUT THIS IS A TIME OF AUSTERITY, YOU KNOW! AH, HERE WE ARE!
THE FIRST COMPLETE SET OF DENTAL X-RAYS ON THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
I DARESAY WE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN YOU TO SIT STILL FOR THESE A YEAR AGO!
NOT IF YOU'D WANTED TO USE YOUR OFFICE AGAIN!
YES, I HEAR TELL YOU WERE QUITE A ROUGH-HOUSER!
TO PUT IT MILDLY.
SHORTLY, IN THE DENTIST'S WAITING ROOM...
HERE HE IS, DR. WAYNESBORO! I TOLD YOU I'D RETURN HIM TO YOU IN ONE PIECE!
DR. BANNER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THE RECORDA-SPHERE AND I WERE A LITTLE WORRIED WHEN WE HEARD YOUR SCREAMS, BRUCE!


SCREAM? ME? THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WHINE OF THE DRILL YOU HEARD!
I WAS AS CALM AS A KITTEN!
I DIDN'T FEEL A THING!
HEY! I DON'T FEEL A THING!
THE PAIN'S GONE! THAT CONFIRMS AN OLD THEORY OF MINE --WHAT HURTS THE HULK DOESN'T HURT ME, AND VICE VERSA!
THEN IT DID HURT!
WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO THROUGH A "CHECK-UP" LIKE THAT EVERY DAY, SPHERE--
--BUT IT WAS INTERESTING TO SUBJECT THE HULK TO THAT LITTLE BIT OF NORMALCY... A "VISIT TO THE DENTIST"... THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS TO GO THROUGH IN THIS LIFE.
YOU SEE, BRUCE--YOU ARE ADJUSTING! WHY, SOMEDAY YOU'LL NO LONGER EVEN REGARD THE HULK--
--AS ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF HUMANITY!
I... HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, KATE--BUT THE HULK IS DIFFERENT...
...AND THESE DAYS HE'S ONLY DORMANT, SUBJUGATED TO BRUCE BANNER'S INTELLECT!
I DREAD THE DAY HE WAKES UP!
9

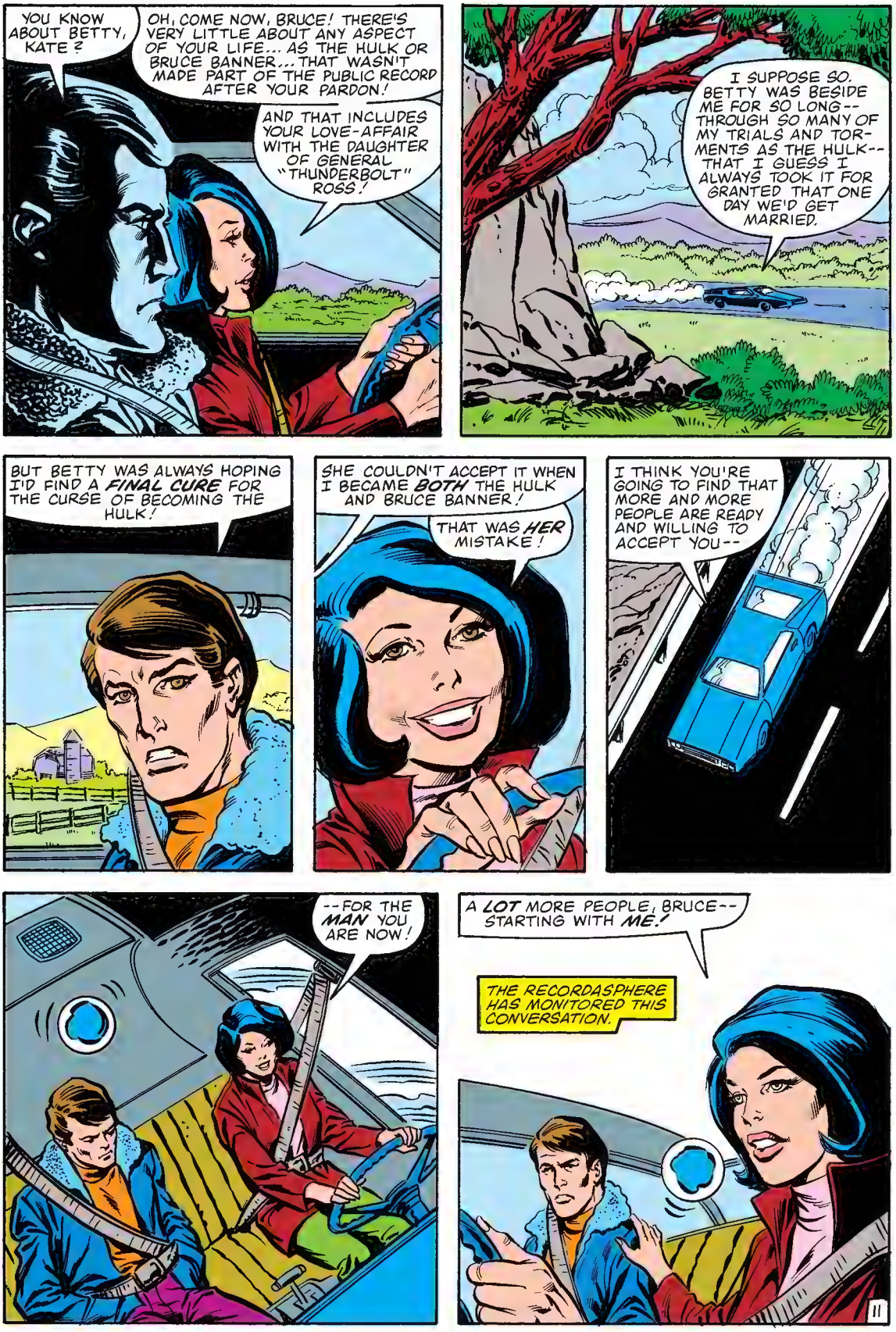

THE HULK WON'T WAKE UP, DR. BANNER! HIS ID IS GONE! IT'S YOUR MIND THAT'S IN CONTROL NOW!
DR. BATES DDS
THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE THAT COULD CHANGE, 'SPHERE. COME ON --LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE OBSERVATORY.
YOU GO AHEAD, BRUCE! I JUST HAVE TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DOCTOR FOR MYSELF!


WITH DR. FURY, YOU MEAN, AGENT WAYNESBORO?
NO, I DON'T NEED TO SEE NICK YET, AGENT BATES. JUST MAKE SURE YOU FORWARD MULTIPLE COPIES OF THE HULK'S X-RAYS AND OF YOUR REPORT TO THE PROPER UNIT.
I KNOW MY DUTY, "DOCTOR!" AND I DO WHAT I CAN FOR THE CAUSE!

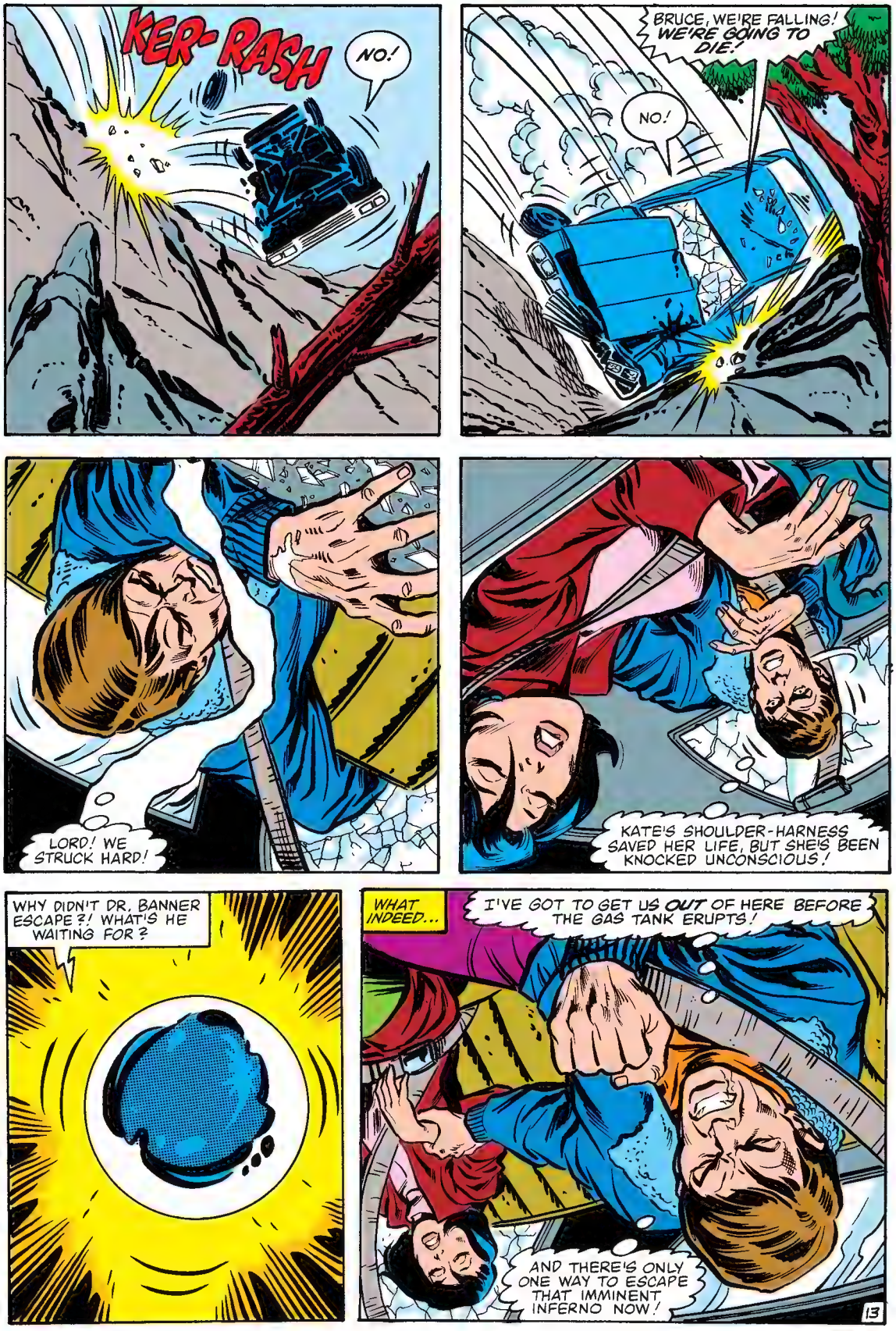

REMEMBER: DON'T YIELD, BACK S.H.I.E.L.D.!
THOUGH THEY CONVERSED IN WHISPERS, THE RECORDASPHERE HAS OVERHEARD.


THE WINDING MOUNTAIN DRIVE BACK TO NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY--BRUCE BANNER'S PRIVATE RESEARCH CENTER AND SANCTUM SANCTORUM--TAKES SEVERAL HOURS.
I THINK YOU'RE BEGINNING TO LEARN THAT BEING THE HULK NEEDN'T SET YOU APART FROM YOUR FELLOW MEN, BRUCE!

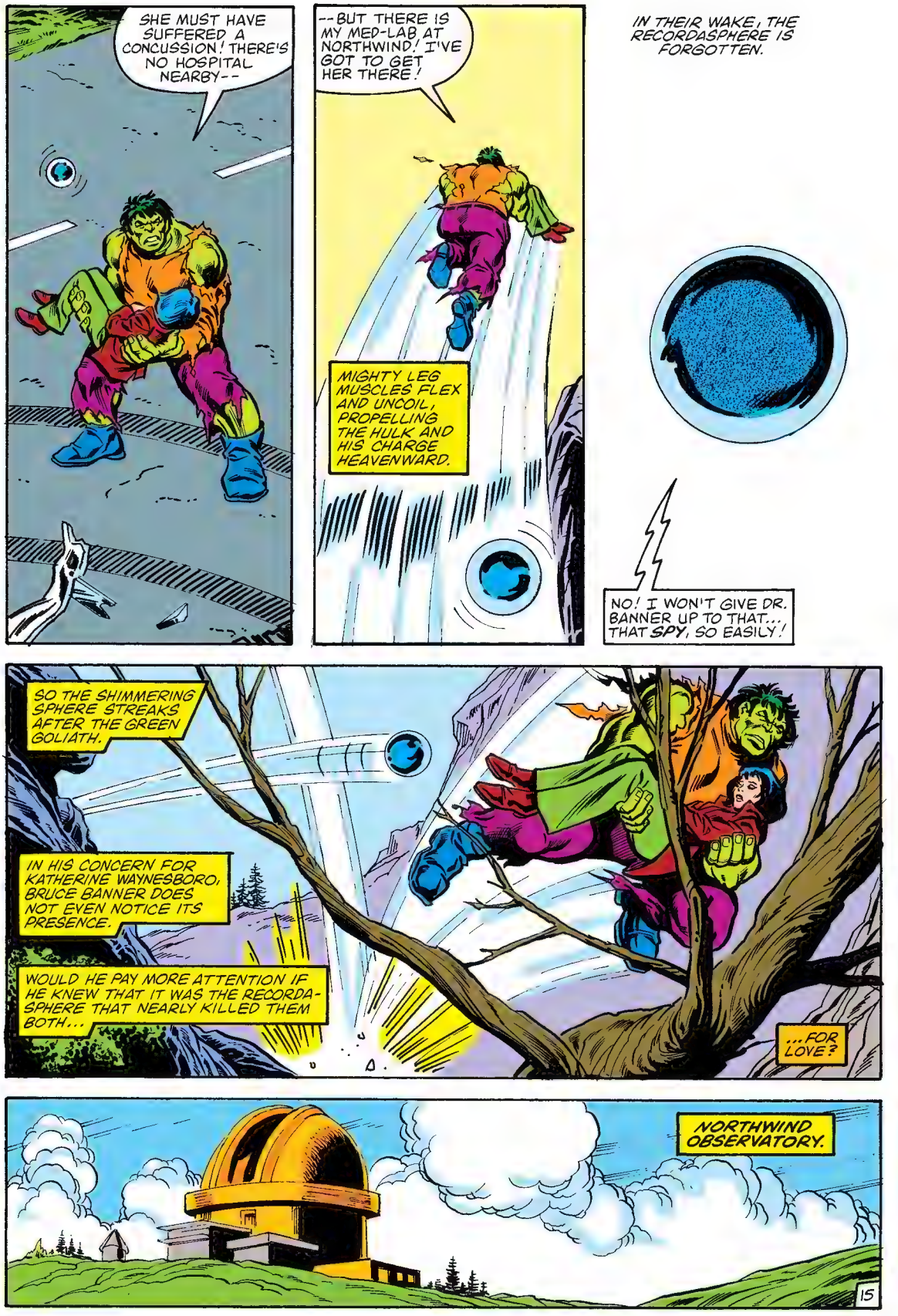
IT'S ALREADY SET ME APART FROM MY FELLOW WOMAN, KATE!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BETTY ROSS, AREN'T YOU? THE WOMAN YOU ALMOST MARRIED?
10


YOU KNOW ABOUT BETTY, KATE?
OH, COME NOW, BRUCE! THERE'S VERY LITTLE ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE... AS THE HULK OR BRUCE BANNER... THAT WASN'T MADE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD AFTER YOUR PARDON!
AND THAT INCLUDES YOUR LOVE-AFFAIR WITH THE DAUGHTER OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS!
I SUPPOSE SO. BETTY WAS BESIDE ME FOR SO LONG-- THROUGH SO MANY OF MY TRIALS AND TORMENTS AS THE HULK-- THAT I GUESS I ALWAYS TOOK IT FOR GRANTED THAT ONE DAY WE'D GET MARRIED.
BUT BETTY WAS ALWAYS HOPING I'D FIND A FINAL CURE FOR THE CURSE OF BECOMING THE HULK!
SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT IT WHEN I BECAME BOTH THE HULK AND BRUCE BANNER!
THAT WAS HER MISTAKE!
I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE READY AND WILLING TO ACCEPT YOU--
--FOR THE MAN YOU ARE NOW!
A LOT MORE PEOPLE, BRUCE-- STARTING WITH ME!
THE RECORDASPHERE HAS MONITORED THIS CONVERSATION.

NOW IT RISES UP ANGRY!
I WAS CREATED BY BRUCE TO BE HIS RESEARCH ASSISTANT -- TO BE HIS SOLE COMPANION!
THEN SHE CAME ALONG...
...TO SPY ON BRUCE FOR THE SPY ORGANIZATION, S.H.I.E.L.D.!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE HOPES TO DISCOVER--
--BUT SHE'LL LEARN NOTHING NOW!
AN INVISIBLE ELECTRONIC CHARGE STABS FORTH FROM THE RECORDASPHERE.
IT STRIKES THE STEERING COLUMN OF KATHERINE WAYNESBORO'S CAR.
BRUCE! THE WHEEL IS JAMMED! I--I CAN'T STEER!
WHAT--?! HERE LET ME TRY!
BRUCE BANNER FARES NO BETTER.
SKREE
THE CAR CAREENS OUT OF CONTROL!
KRASH
SKRAK
DR. BANNER! BECOME THE HULK! SAVE YOURSELF!
12

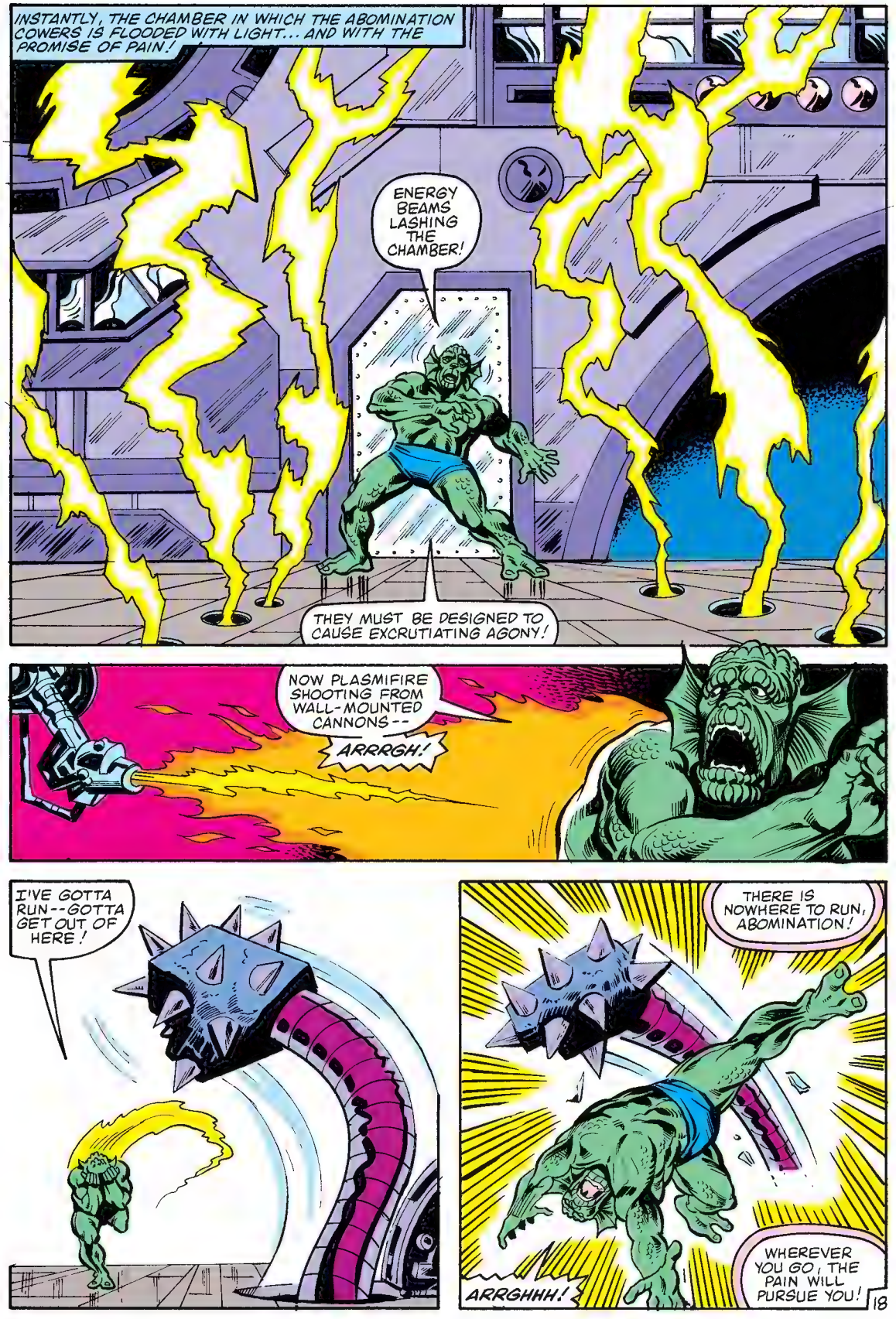

KER-RASH
NO!
BRUCE, WE'RE FALLING! WE'RE GOING TO DIE!
NO!
LORD! WE STRUCK HARD!
KATE'S SHOULDER-HARNESS SAVED HER LIFE, BUT SHE'S BEEN KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS!
WHY DIDN'T DR. BANNER ESCAPE?! WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR?
WHAT INDEED...
I'VE GOT TO GET US OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE GAS TANK ERUPTS!
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ESCAPE THAT IMMINENT INFERNO NOW!
13

BRUCE BANNER'S FEARS PROVE WELL-FOUNDED. FLAMES SPRING FORTH FROM THE CAR'S GAS TANK...
...AND, IN SECONDS, THEY PROCEED TO ENGULF THE REST OF THE VEHICLE.
BUT BRUCE BANNER WILL NOT PERISH MIDST A MASS OF CHARRED AND TWISTED METAL THIS DAY!
PUHWHOOM!
THANKS TO THE POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK, NO ONE WILL!
WE MADE IT!
DR. BANNER--YOU'RE ALIVE!
AND DR. WAYNESBORO?
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS! SHE STRUCK HER HEAD DURING THE CRASH!
14

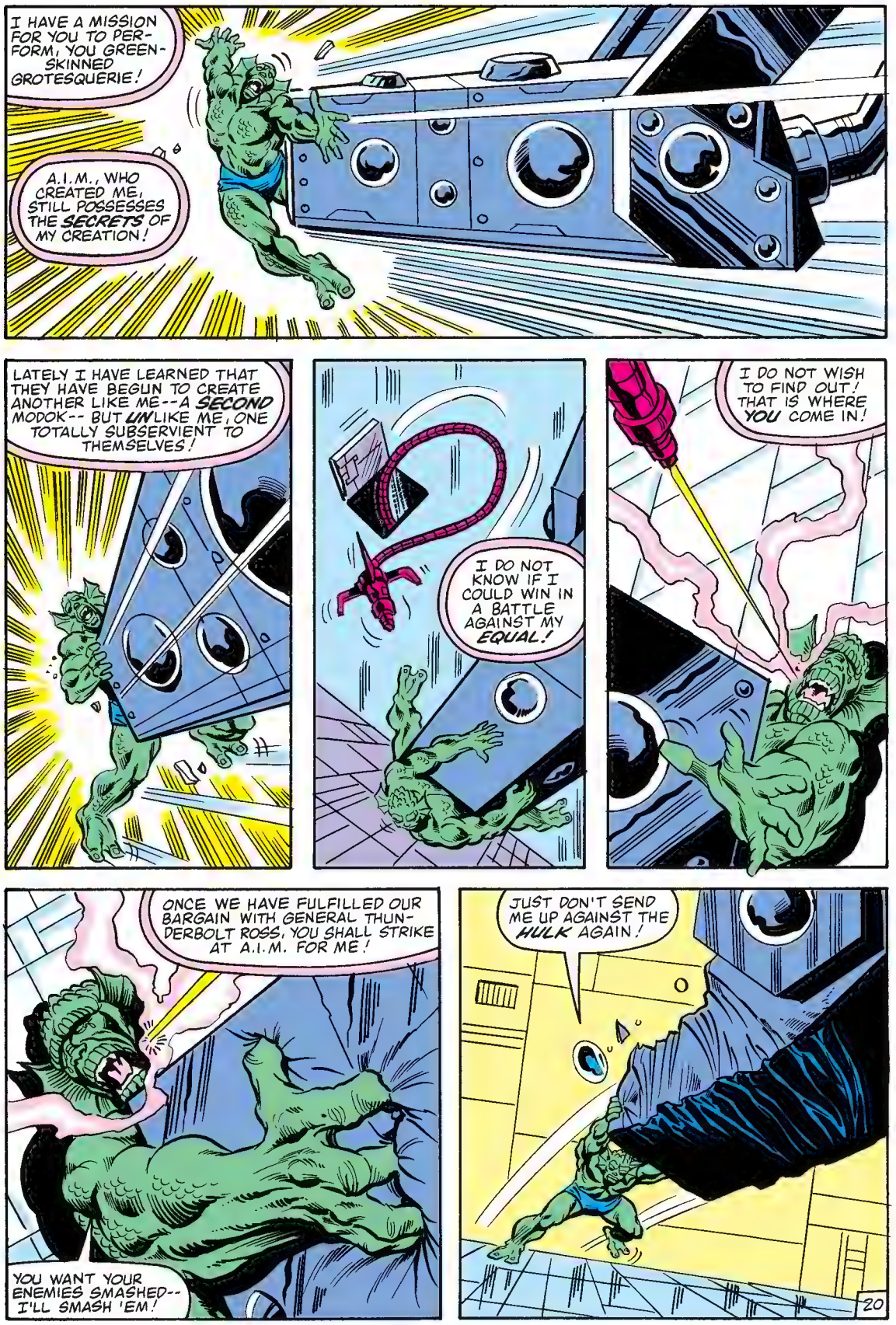

SHE MUST HAVE SUFFERED A CONCUSSION! THERE'S NO HOSPITAL NEARBY--
--BUT THERE IS MY MED-LAB AT NORTHWIND! I'VE GOT TO GET HER THERE!
MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES FLEX AND UNCOIL, PROPELLING THE HULK AND HIS CHARGE HEAVENWARD.
IN THEIR WAKE, THE RECORDASPHERE IS FORGOTTEN.
NO! I WON'T GIVE DR. BANNER UP TO THAT... THAT SPY, SO EASILY!
SO THE SHIMMERING SPHERE STREAKS AFTER THE GREEN GOLIATH.
IN HIS CONCERN FOR KATHERINE WAYNESBORO, BRUCE BANNER DOES NOT EVEN NOTICE ITS PRESENCE.
WOULD HE PAY MORE ATTENTION IF HE KNEW THAT IT WAS THE RECORDA-SPHERE THAT NEARLY KILLED THEM BOTH...
...FOR LOVE?
NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY.
15

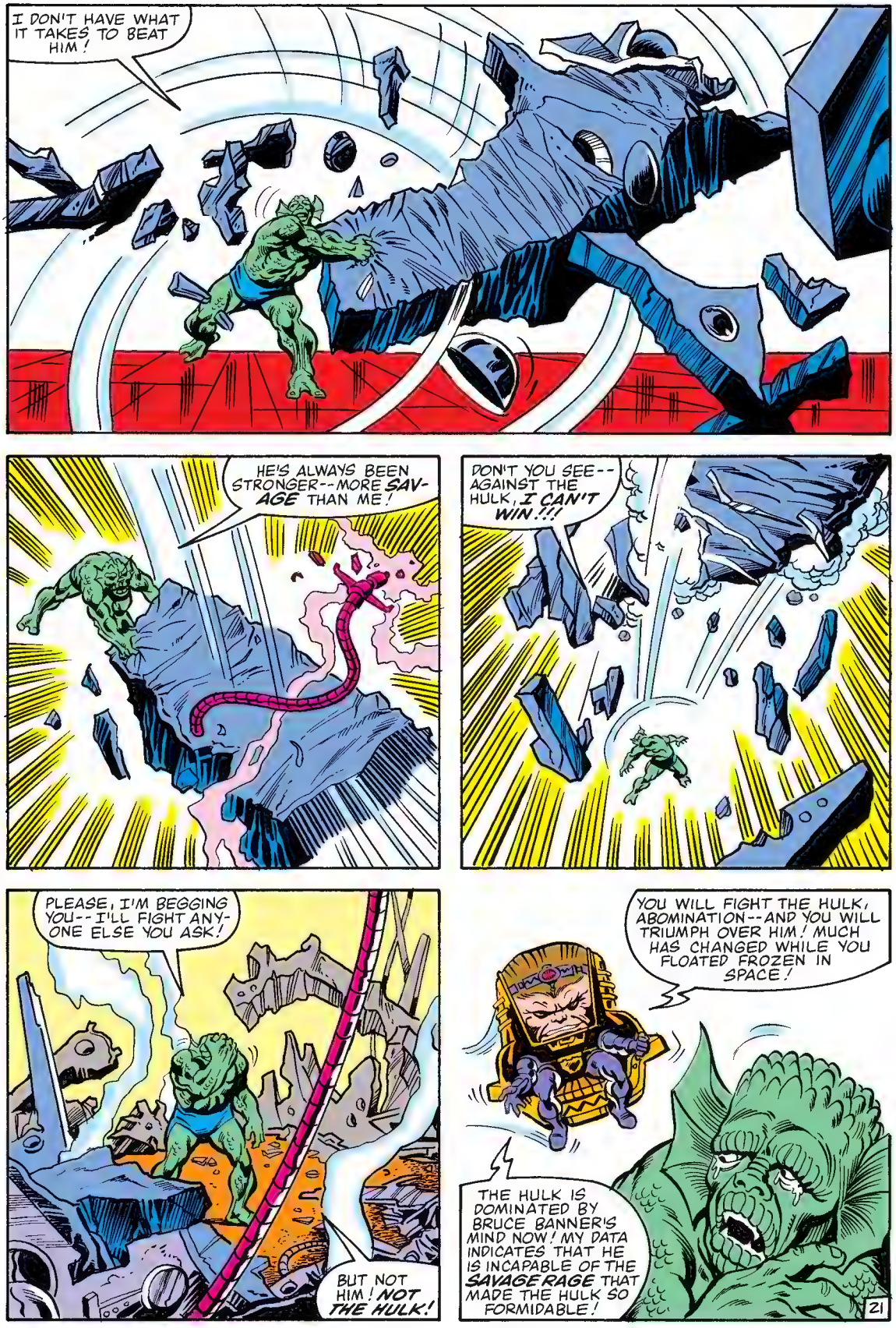
THWOOM!
GO ON AHEAD, 'SPHERE! PREPARE THE MED-LAB TO RECEIVE DR. WAYNESBORO!
PR-PREPARE ME? FOR WHAT?
KATE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BRUCE? YOU'RE THE HULK NOW?
OH! NOW I REMEMBER--THE ACCIDENT! DEATH SEEMED CERTAIN--
--BUT YOU SAVED US!
I JUST DID WHAT COMES NATURALLY... MMPPHHH!
DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO ALSO DOES THAT WHICH COMES NATURALLY...
...AND WHO IS BRUCE BANNER TO ARGUE WITH NATURE?
16

SOMEWHERE ELSE...
...IN THE DARK.
ARISE, ABOMINATION! CEASE YOUR PATHETIC WHIMPERING!
I-I CAN'T! I'M AFRAID!
YOU POSSESS MORE POWER THAN MOST MORTALS CAN CONCEIVE!
BUT I'M TOO SCARED TO USE IT! I-I DON'T WANT TO BE HURT AGAIN!
HURT? YOU THINK THAT THE BEATING THE HULK GAVE YOU, HURT?!
CRINGING, CRAVEN CUR! MODOK WILL SHOW YOU THE TRUE MEANING OF PAIN!
EITHER REGAIN YOUR COURAGE, OR YOU WILL SUFFER AS YOU HAVE NEVER SUFFERED BEFORE!
MODOK'S MIND-BEAM STABS FORTH, STRIKING A CONTROL CONSOLE.
17


INSTANTLY, THE CHAMBER IN WHICH THE ABOMINATION COWERS IS FLOODED WITH LIGHT... AND WITH THE PROMISE OF PAIN!
ENERGY BEAMS LASHING THE CHAMBER!
THEY MUST BE DESIGNED TO CAUSE EXCRUTIATING AGONY!
NOW PLASMIFIRE SHOOTING FROM WALL-MOUNTED CANNONS--
ARRRGH!
I'VE GOTTA RUN--GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
THERE IS NOWHERE TO RUN, ABOMINATION!
ARRGHHH!
WHEREVER YOU GO, THE PAIN WILL PURSUE YOU!
18

THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT THE PAIN--IS TO FIGHT!
I-I CAN'T! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT! THE ONLY THING FIGHTING EVER GOT ME--
--IS HURT!
I-I'D RATHER DIE THAN BE HURT LIKE THAT AGAIN!
CRACKKLE
CURSE YOU FOR THE COWARD YOU ARE! NO, YOU WILL NOT DIE, ABOMINATION! YOU WILL LIVE! LIVE TO SUFFER TORMENTS UNENDING!
THE AGONY WILL ONLY DESIST IF YOU FIGHT!!
Y-YOU MEAN YOU'LL GO ON HURTING ME LIKE THIS FOREVER, UNLESS I DO YOUR FIGHTING FOR YOU?!!
WHAT KIND OF SADIST ARE YOU?!!
19


I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU TO PERFORM, YOU GREEN-SKINNED GROTESQUERIE!
A.I.M., WHO CREATED ME, STILL POSSESSES THE SECRETS OF MY CREATION!
LATELY I HAVE LEARNED THAT THEY HAVE BEGUN TO CREATE ANOTHER LIKE ME--A SECOND MODOK-- BUT UNLIKE ME, ONE TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT TO THEMSELVES!
I DO NOT KNOW IF I COULD WIN IN A BATTLE AGAINST MY EQUAL!
I DO NOT WISH TO FIND OUT! THAT IS WHERE YOU COME IN!
ONCE WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR BARGAIN WITH GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS, YOU SHALL STRIKE AT A.I.M. FOR ME!
YOU WANT YOUR ENEMIES SMASHED-- I'LL SMASH 'EM!
JUST DON'T SEND ME UP AGAINST THE HULK AGAIN!
20


I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BEAT HIM!
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN STRONGER--MORE SAVAGE THAN ME!
DON'T YOU SEE--AGAINST THE HULK, I CAN'T WIN!!!
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU--I'LL FIGHT ANYONE ELSE YOU ASK!
BUT NOT HIM! NOT THE HULK!
YOU WILL FIGHT THE HULK, ABOMINATION--AND YOU WILL TRIUMPH OVER HIM! MUCH HAS CHANGED WHILE YOU FLOATED FROZEN IN SPACE!
THE HULK IS DOMINATED BY BRUCE BANNER'S MIND NOW! MY DATA INDICATES THAT HE IS INCAPABLE OF THE SAVAGE RAGE THAT MADE THE HULK SO FORMIDABLE!
21

THUS, YOU WILL NOT BE PITTING YOUR POWERS AGAINST A FOE WHO GETS STRONGER IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO HIS ANGER--
--WHEREAS THE HULK WILL BE FIGHTING A FOE WHO DERIVES HIS STRENGTH FROM DESPERATION... FROM FEAR!
WHEN I AM DONE WITH YOU, ABOMINATION, YOU WILL BECOME MIGHTIER IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO YOUR DESIRE TO AVOID PAIN!
THE MORE INTENSE YOUR FEAR OF ME, THE STRONGER WILL YOU BE!!!
NO! NO! NO!
YES, ABOMINATION! YES! YOU WILL ATTACK THE HULK AND DESTROY HIM--OR I WILL CAUSE YOU FAR MORE PAIN THAN YOU HAVE EVER DARED DREAM!
22
NEXT MONTH: PHASE ONE!

MARVEL
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
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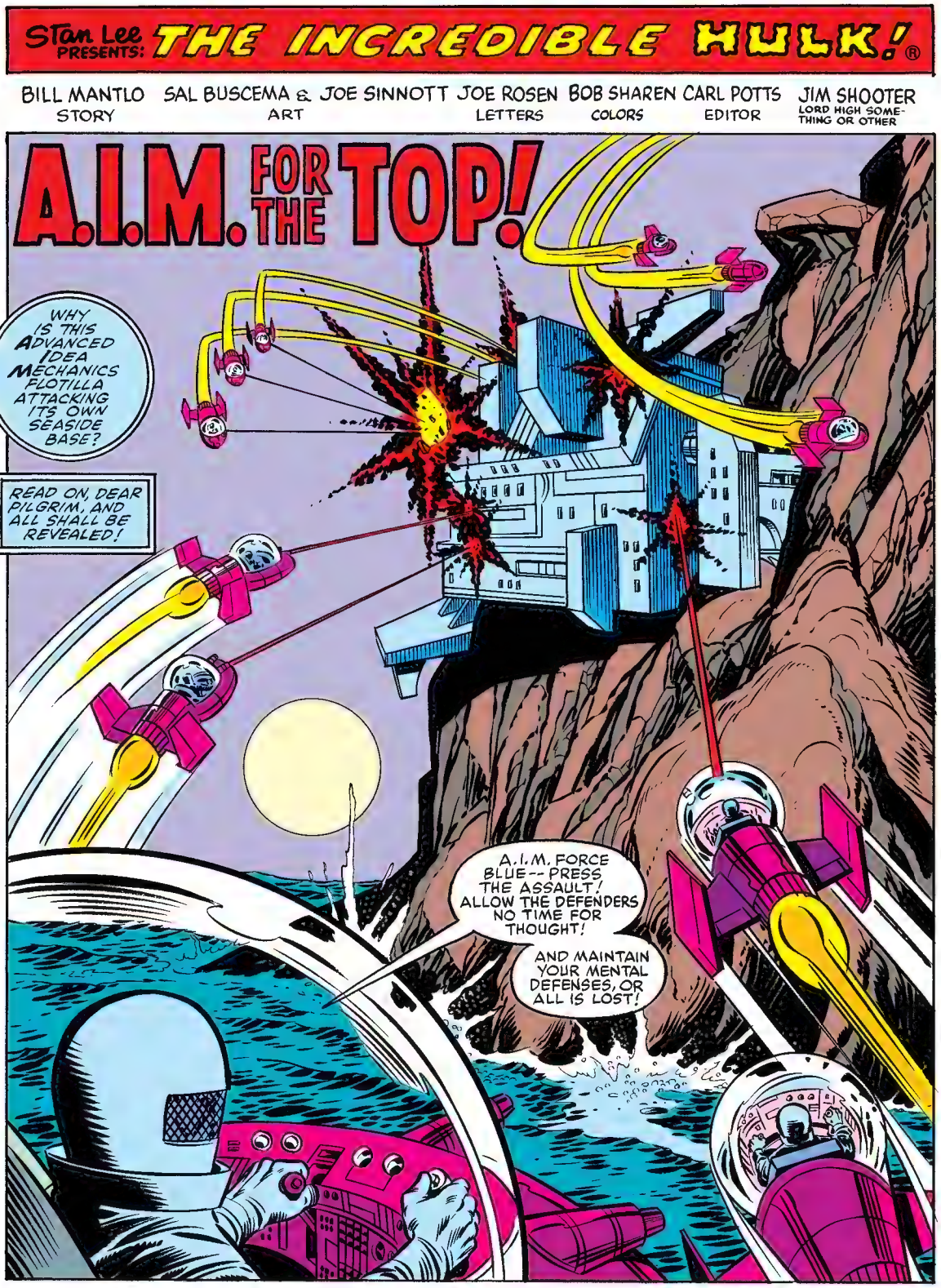
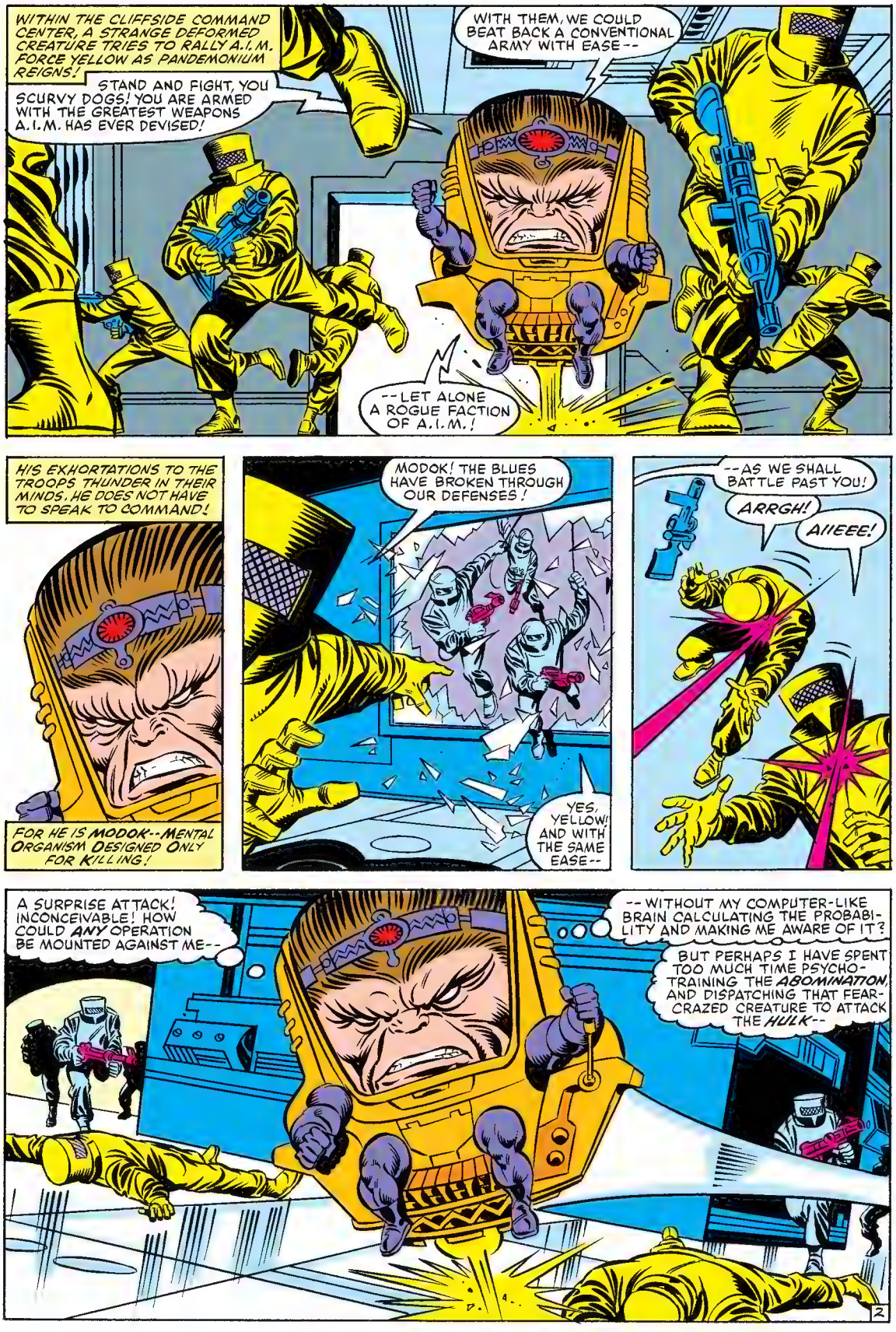
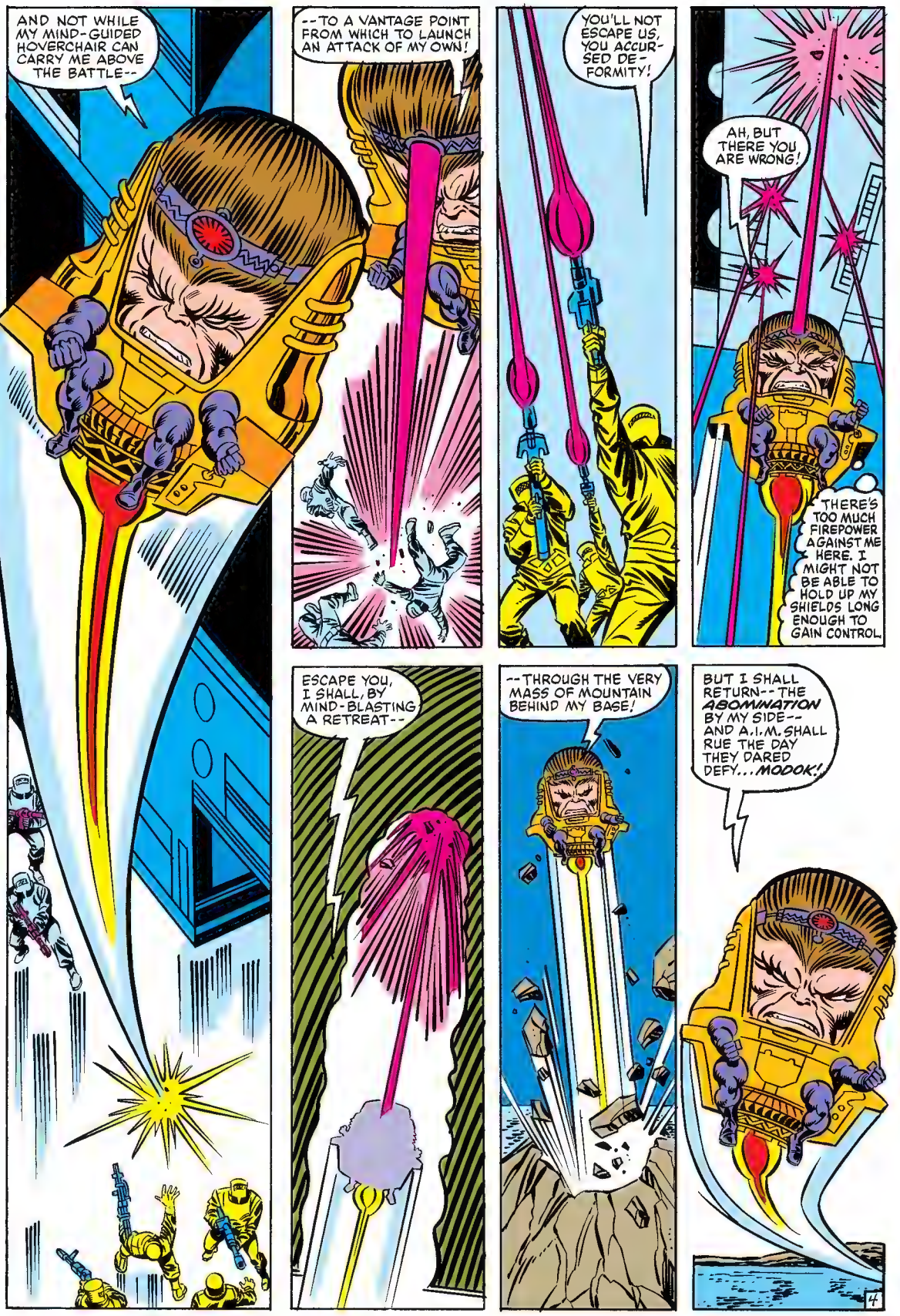
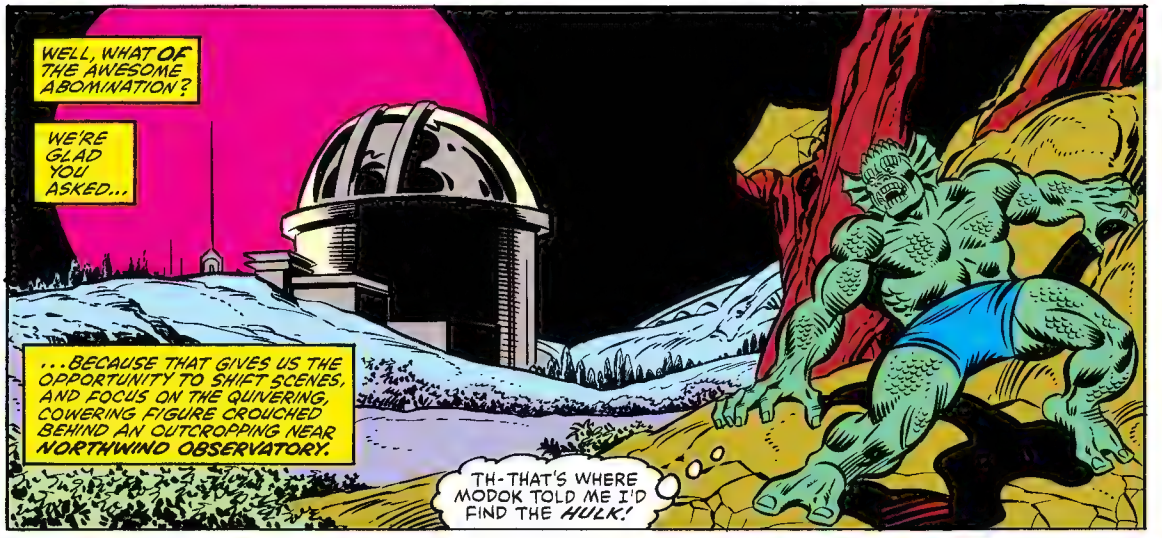
TM
60¢
289
NOV
02456
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MILGROM


Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
BILL MANTLO STORY
SAL BUSCEMA & JOE SINNOTT ART
JOE ROSEN LETTERS
BOB SHAREN COLORS
CARL POTTS EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER LORD HIGH SOMETHING OR OTHER
A.I.M. FOR THE TOP!
WHY IS THIS ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS FLOTILLA ATTACKING ITS OWN SEASIDE BASE?
READ ON, DEAR PILGRIM, AND ALL SHALL BE REVEALED!
A.I.M. FORCE BLUE-- PRESS THE ASSAULT! ALLOW THE DEFENDERS NO TIME FOR THOUGHT!
AND MAINTAIN YOUR MENTAL DEFENSES, OR ALL IS LOST!


WITHIN THE CLIFFSIDE COMMAND CENTER, A STRANGE DEFORMED CREATURE TRIES TO RALLY A.I.M. FORCE YELLOW AS PANDEMONIUM REIGNS!
STAND AND FIGHT, YOU SCURVY DOGS! YOU ARE ARMED WITH THE GREATEST WEAPONS A.I.M. HAS EVER DEVISED!
WITH THEM, WE COULD BEAT BACK A CONVENTIONAL ARMY WITH EASE--
--LET ALONE A ROGUE FACTION OF A.I.M.!
HIS EXHORTATIONS TO THE TROOPS THUNDER IN THEIR MINDS. HE DOES NOT HAVE TO SPEAK TO COMMAND!
FOR HE IS MODOK--MENTAL ORGANISM DESIGNED ONLY FOR KILLING!
MODOK! THE BLUES HAVE BROKEN THROUGH OUR DEFENSES!
YES, YELLOW! AND WITH THE SAME EASE--
--AS WE SHALL BATTLE PAST YOU!
ARRGH!
AIIEEE!
A SURPRISE ATTACK! INCONCEIVABLE! HOW COULD ANY OPERATION BE MOUNTED AGAINST ME--
--WITHOUT MY COMPUTER-LIKE BRAIN CALCULATING THE PROBABILITY AND MAKING ME AWARE OF IT?
BUT PERHAPS I HAVE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME PSYCHO-TRAINING THE ABOMINATION, AND DISPATCHING THAT FEAR-CRAZED CREATURE TO ATTACK THE HULK--
2

--AND NOT ENOUGH TIME MONITORING MY OWN REBELLIOUS MINIONS! YES, I DETECT A MIND-BLOCK RAISED AGAINST ME!
BEWARE! MODOK UNLEASHES HIS MIND-BEAM!
INTERESTING! THE MIND-BLOCK PREVENTS ME FROM SCANNING THE BRAIN ENGRAMS NOT ONLY OF THE REBELS--
--BUT OF MY OWN SUBSERVIENT AGENTS, TOO!
SCIENTISTS OF A.I.M.--OUR RUSE HAS SUCCEEDED!
I WAS RIGHT! A MIND-BLOCK WAS RAISED AGAINST ME NOT ONLY TO PREVENT MY DETECTING THE ROGUE ASSAULT--BUT TO HIDE THE BETRAYAL TAKING PLACE IN MY OWN RANKS!
AFTER LEARNING OF MODOK'S ACQUISITION OF THE ABOMINATION TO ENFORCE HIS WILL MORE EFFECTIVELY OVER THEM, THE RANKS OF A.I.M. HAD DECIDED THEY'D HAD ENOUGH.
THEY CREATED MODOK TO SERVE A.I.M.--NOT TO RULE IT. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, THEIR ORGANIZATION HAD STAGNATED!
THEY'LL STAGNATE NO LONGER!
DEATH TO THE FREAK! LET THE SUPER-SCIENCE OF A.I.M. BE LIBERATED FROM HIS CONTROL!
INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENTS ERUPT, BLASTING OUT AT MODOK FROM EVERY SIDE!
AN ADMIRABLE ATTEMPT, FOOLS... SACRIFICING SOME OF YOUR RANKS TO SET ME UP IN YOUR AMBUSH! THOUGH YOU DON'T STAND ANY CHANCE OF SLAYING ME--NOT WHILE MY MUTATED MIND IS CAPABLE OF FORMING PSIONIC FORCE SHIELDS!
3

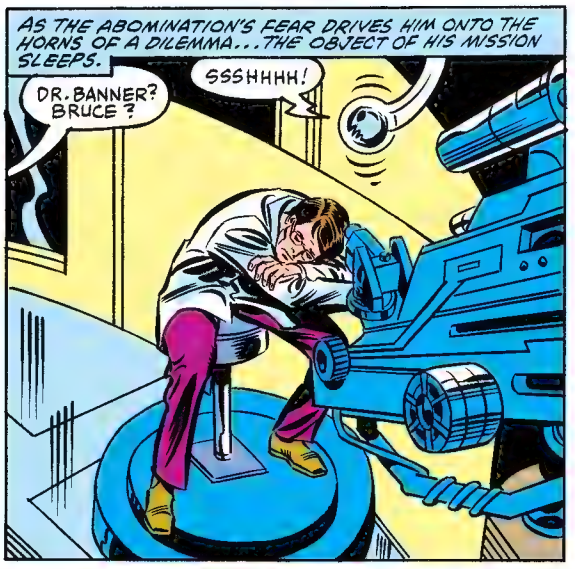

AND NOT WHILE MY MIND-GUIDED HOVERCHAIR CAN CARRY ME ABOVE THE BATTLE--
--TO A VANTAGE POINT FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK OF MY OWN!
YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE US, YOU ACCURSED DEFORMITY!
AH, BUT THERE YOU ARE WRONG!
THERE'S TOO MUCH FIREPOWER AGAINST ME HERE. I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD UP MY SHIELDS LONG ENOUGH TO GAIN CONTROL
ESCAPE YOU, I SHALL, BY MIND-BLASTING A RETREAT--
--THROUGH THE VERY MASS OF MOUNTAIN BEHIND MY BASE!
BUT I SHALL RETURN-- THE ABOMINATION BY MY SIDE-- AND A.I.M. SHALL RUE THE DAY THEY DARED DEFY... MODOK!
4

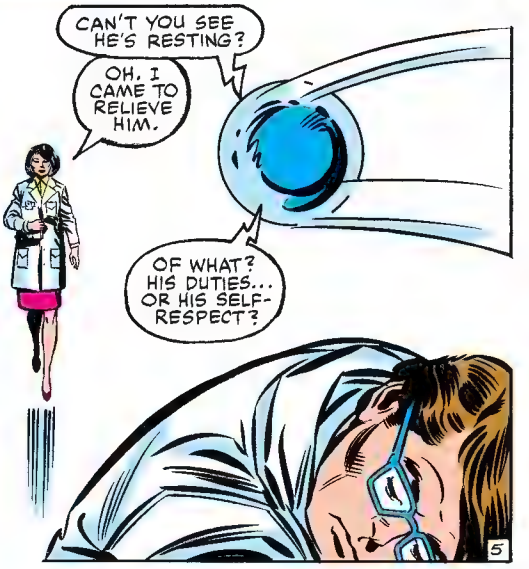

WELL, WHAT OF THE AWESOME ABOMINATION?
WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED...
...BECAUSE THAT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHIFT SCENES, AND FOCUS ON THE QUIVERING, COWERING FIGURE CROUCHED BEHIND AN OUTCROPPING NEAR NORTHWIND OBSERVATORY.
TH-THAT'S WHERE MODOK TOLD ME I'D FIND THE HULK!

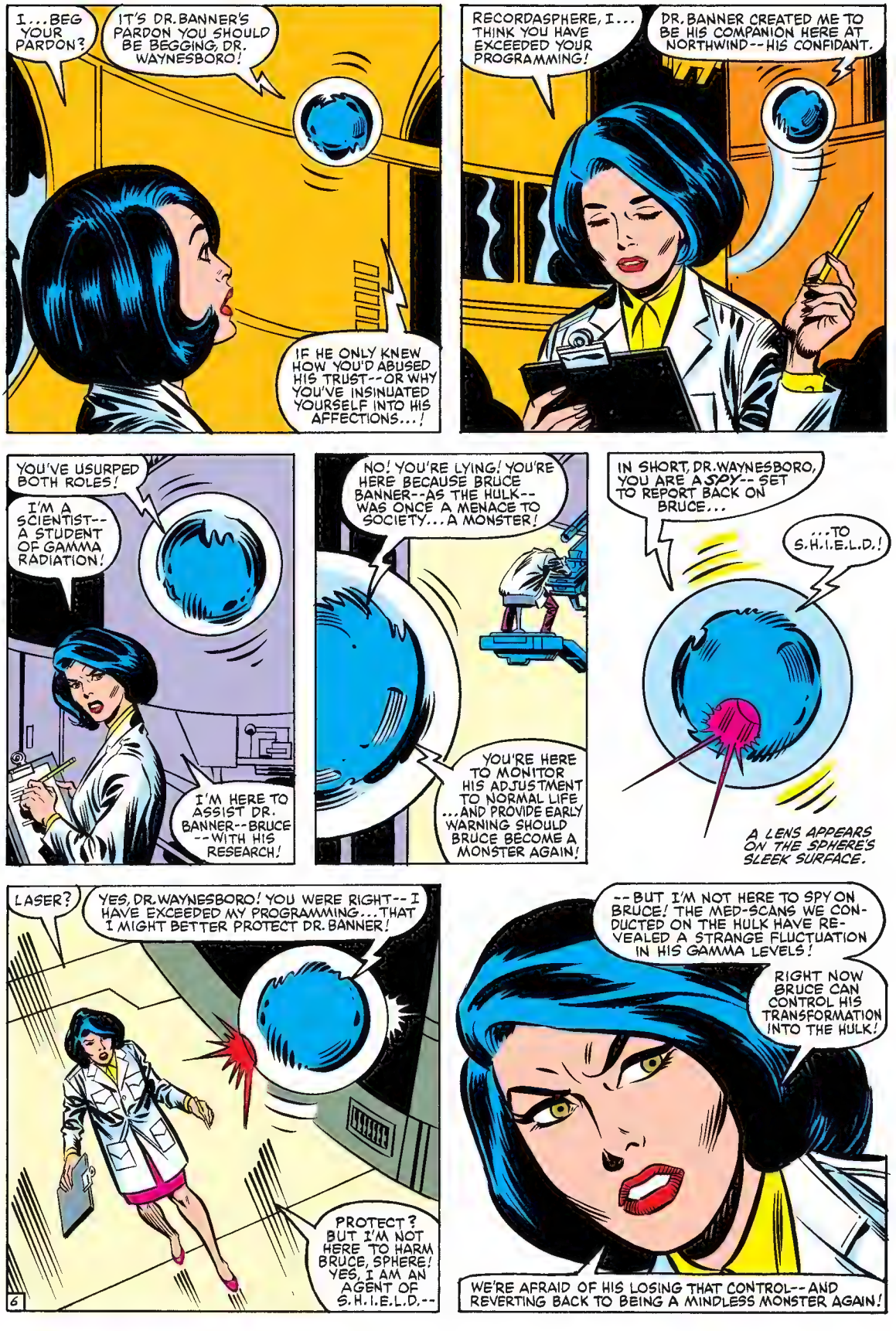
I'M SUPPOSED T'BUST IN THERE AND KILL HIM!

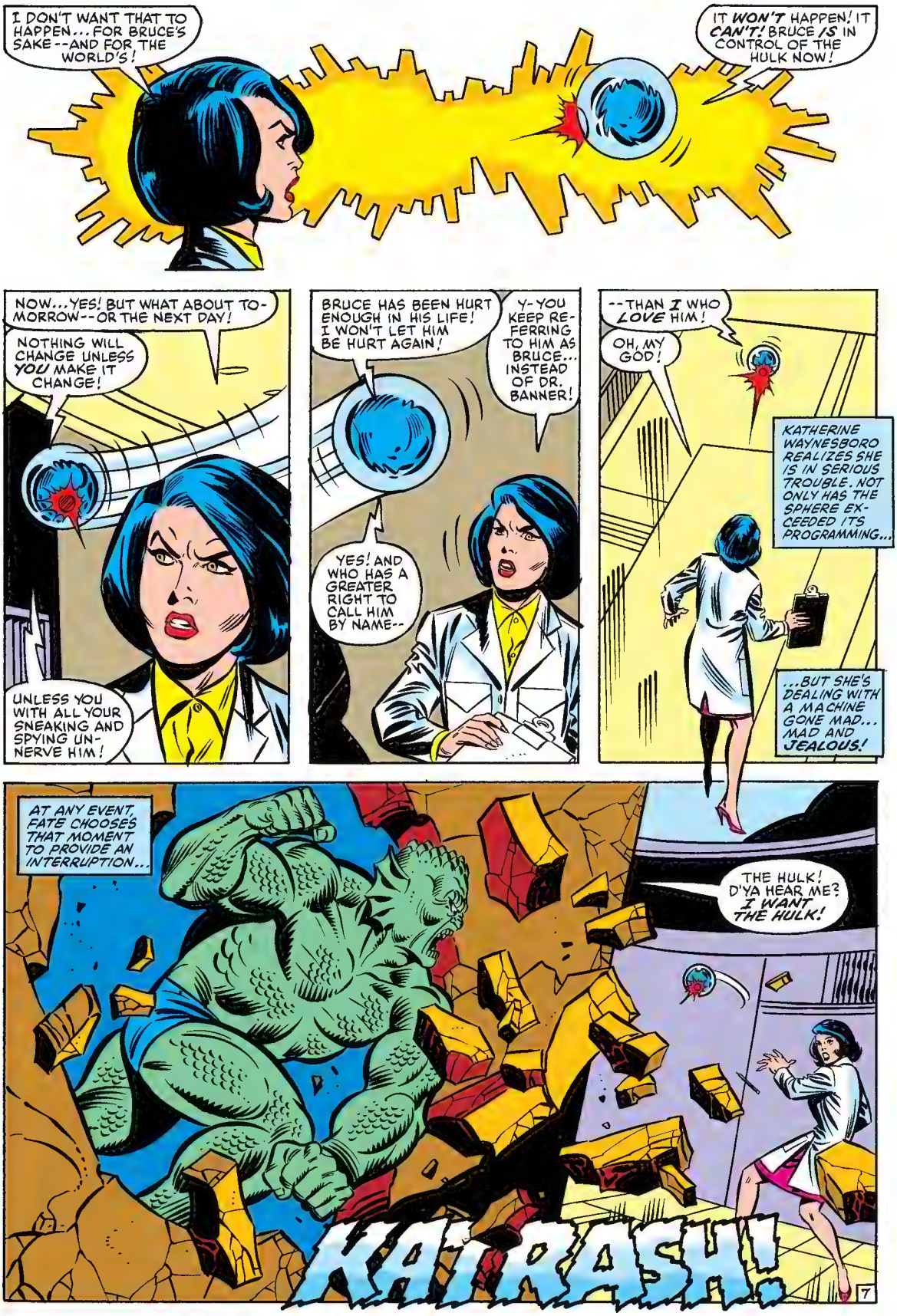
I SHOULD BE ABLE T'DO IT! IT WAS GAMMA RAYS MADE US BOTH MONSTERS--AND MADE ME STRONGER!
BUT I'M SCARED!

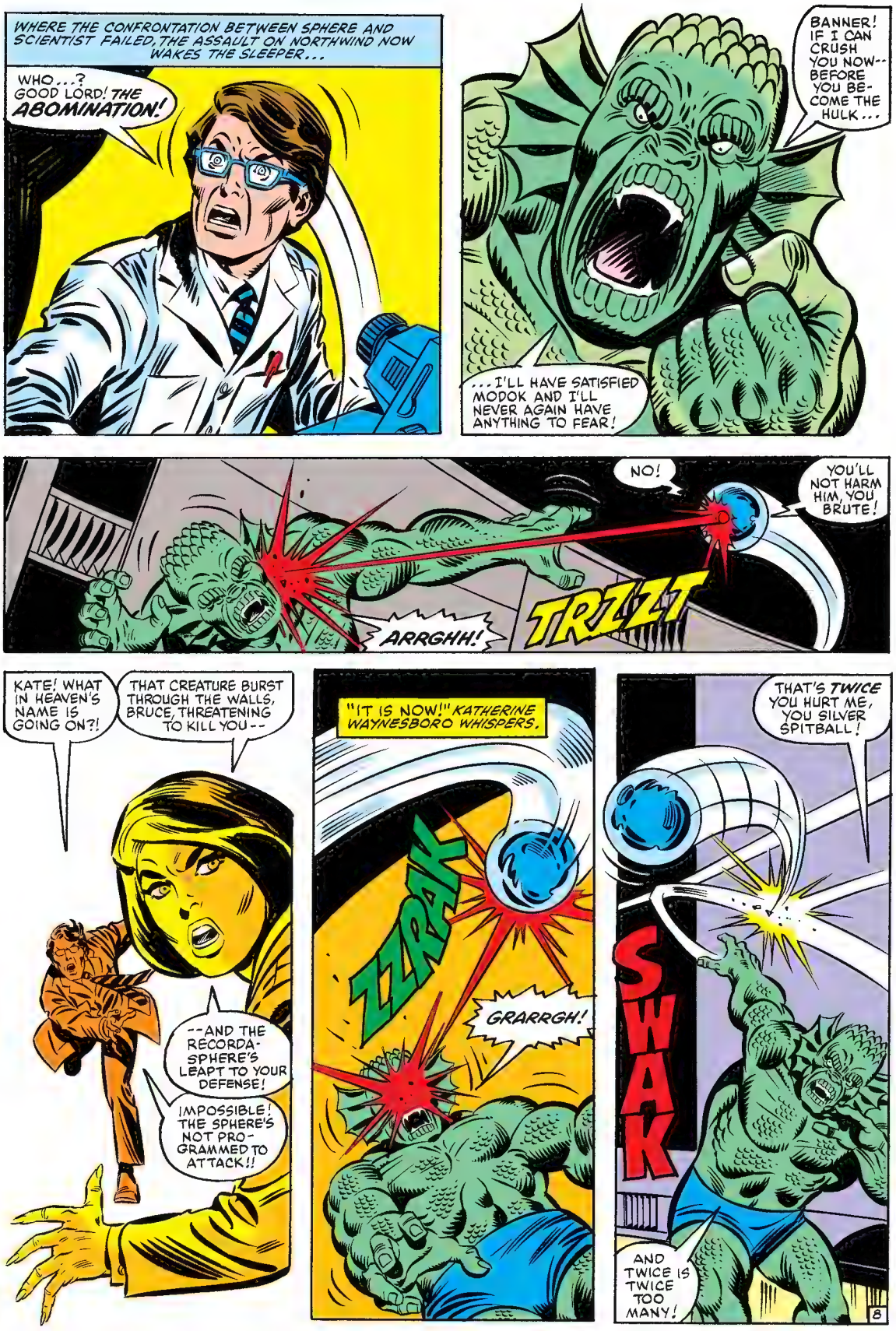
DESPITE ALL MY POWER, THE HULK ALWAYS BEATS ME--AND BEATS ME BAD!
I DON'T WANT T' TAKE THAT KIND OF THRASHIN' AGAIN!
BUT I AIN'T GOT ANY CHOICE!
EITHER I TACKLE THE HULK--OR MODOK'LL HURT ME WORSE!

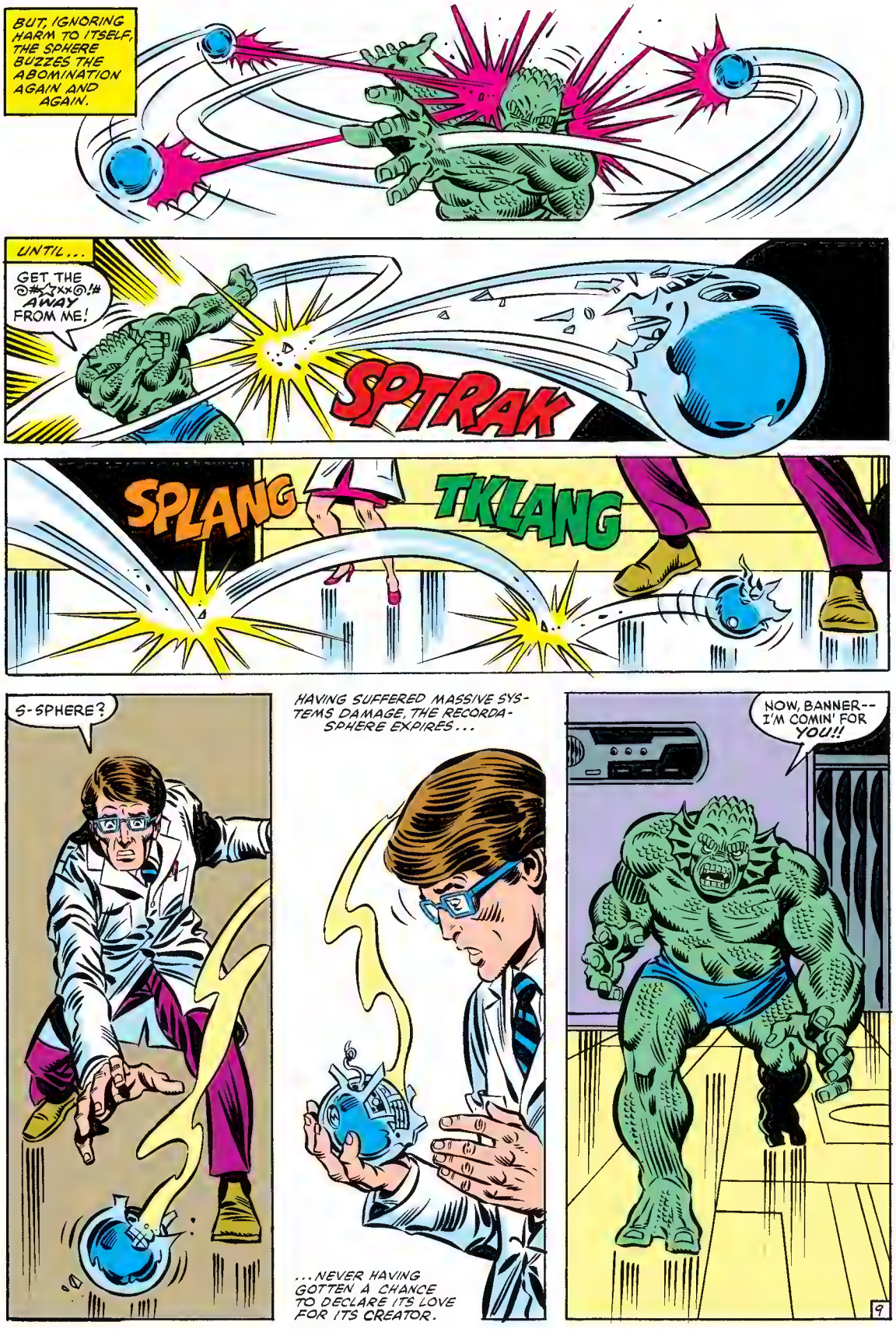

AS THE ABOMINATION'S FEAR DRIVES HIM ONTO THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA...THE OBJECT OF HIS MISSION SLEEPS.
DR. BANNER? BRUCE?
SSSHHHH!

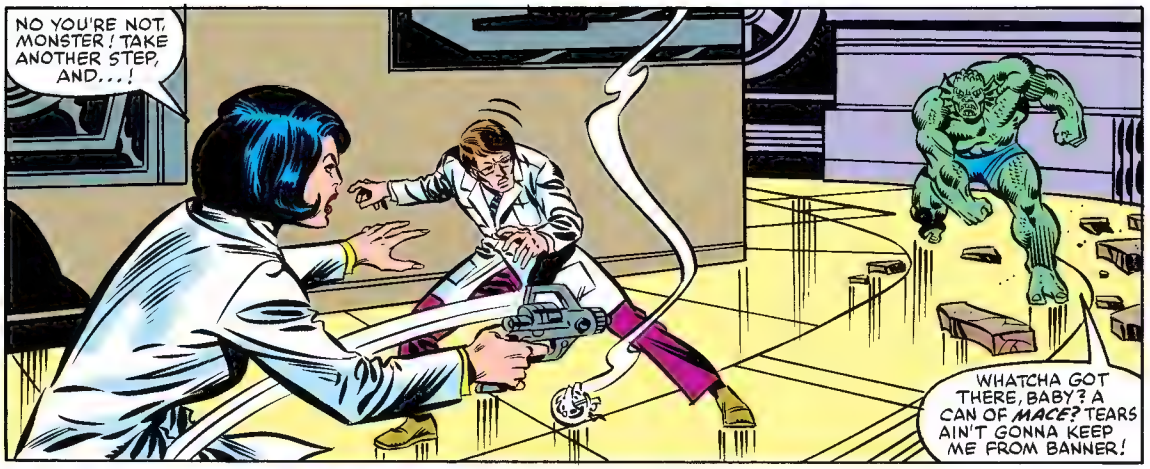

CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S RESTING?
OH, I CAME TO RELIEVE HIM.
OF WHAT? HIS DUTIES... OR HIS SELF-RESPECT?
5


I...BEG YOUR PARDON?
IT'S DR. BANNER'S PARDON YOU SHOULD BE BEGGING, DR. WAYNESBORO!
IF HE ONLY KNEW HOW YOU'D ABUSED HIS TRUST--OR WHY YOU'VE INSINUATED YOURSELF INTO HIS AFFECTIONS...!
RECORDASPHERE, I... THINK YOU HAVE EXCEEDED YOUR PROGRAMMING!
DR. BANNER CREATED ME TO BE HIS COMPANION HERE AT NORTHWIND--HIS CONFIDANT.
YOU'VE USURPED BOTH ROLES!
I'M A SCIENTIST--A STUDENT OF GAMMA RADIATION!
I'M HERE TO ASSIST DR. BANNER--BRUCE --WITH HIS RESEARCH!
NO! YOU'RE LYING! YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE BRUCE BANNER--AS THE HULK--WAS ONCE A MENACE TO SOCIETY...A MONSTER!
YOU'RE HERE TO MONITOR HIS ADJUSTMENT TO NORMAL LIFE ...AND PROVIDE EARLY WARNING SHOULD BRUCE BECOME A MONSTER AGAIN!
IN SHORT, DR. WAYNESBORO, YOU ARE A SPY--SET TO REPORT BACK ON BRUCE...
...TO S.H.I.E.L.D.!
A LENS APPEARS ON THE SPHERE'S SLEEK SURFACE.
LASER?
YES, DR. WAYNESBORO! YOU WERE RIGHT--I HAVE EXCEEDED MY PROGRAMMING...THAT I MIGHT BETTER PROTECT DR. BANNER!
PROTECT? BUT I'M NOT HERE TO HARM BRUCE, SPHERE! YES, I AM AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.--
6
--BUT I'M NOT HERE TO SPY ON BRUCE! THE MED-SCANS WE CONDUCTED ON THE HULK HAVE REVEALED A STRANGE FLUCTUATION IN HIS GAMMA LEVELS!
RIGHT NOW BRUCE CAN CONTROL HIS TRANSFORMATION INTO THE HULK!
WE'RE AFRAID OF HIS LOSING THAT CONTROL--AND REVERTING BACK TO BEING A MINDLESS MONSTER AGAIN!


I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN... FOR BRUCE'S SAKE--AND FOR THE WORLD'S!
IT WON'T HAPPEN! IT CAN'T! BRUCE IS IN CONTROL OF THE HULK NOW!
NOW...YES! BUT WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW--OR THE NEXT DAY!
NOTHING WILL CHANGE UNLESS YOU MAKE IT CHANGE!
UNLESS YOU WITH ALL YOUR SNEAKING AND SPYING UNNERVE HIM!
BRUCE HAS BEEN HURT ENOUGH IN HIS LIFE! I WON'T LET HIM BE HURT AGAIN!
Y-YOU KEEP REFERRING TO HIM AS BRUCE... INSTEAD OF DR. BANNER!
YES! AND WHO HAS A GREATER RIGHT TO CALL HIM BY NAME--
--THAN I WHO LOVE HIM!
OH, MY GOD!
KATHERINE WAYNESBORO REALIZES SHE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. NOT ONLY HAS THE SPHERE EXCEEDED ITS PROGRAMMING...
...BUT SHE'S DEALING WITH A MACHINE GONE MAD... MAD AND JEALOUS!
AT ANY EVENT, FATE CHOOSES THAT MOMENT TO PROVIDE AN INTERRUPTION...
THE HULK! D'YA HEAR ME? I WANT THE HULK!
KA-RASH!!
7


WHERE THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SPHERE AND SCIENTIST FAILED, THE ASSAULT ON NORTHWIND NOW WAKES THE SLEEPER...
WHO...? GOOD LORD! THE ABOMINATION!
BANNER! IF I CAN CRUSH YOU NOW--BEFORE YOU BECOME THE HULK...
...I'LL HAVE SATISFIED MODOK AND I'LL NEVER AGAIN HAVE ANYTHING TO FEAR!
NO!
YOU'LL NOT HARM HIM, YOU BRUTE!
ARRGHH!
TRZZT
KATE! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS GOING ON?!
THAT CREATURE BURST THROUGH THE WALLS, BRUCE, THREATENING TO KILL YOU--
--AND THE RECORDA-SPHERE'S LEAPT TO YOUR DEFENSE!
IMPOSSIBLE! THE SPHERE'S NOT PROGRAMMED TO ATTACK!!
"IT IS NOW!" KATHERINE WAYNESBORO WHISPERS.
ZZRAK
GRARRGH!
THAT'S TWICE YOU HURT ME, YOU SILVER SPITBALL!
SWAK
AND TWICE IS TWICE TOO MANY!
8


BUT, IGNORING HARM TO ITSELF, THE SPHERE BUZZES THE ABOMINATION AGAIN AND AGAIN.
UNTIL...
GET THE @#☆xx◎!# AWAY FROM ME!
SPTRAK
SPLANG
TKLANG
S-SPHERE?
HAVING SUFFERED MASSIVE SYSTEMS DAMAGE, THE RECORDASPHERE EXPIRES...
...NEVER HAVING GOTTEN A CHANCE TO DECLARE ITS LOVE FOR ITS CREATOR.
NOW, BANNER-- I'M COMIN' FOR YOU!!
9

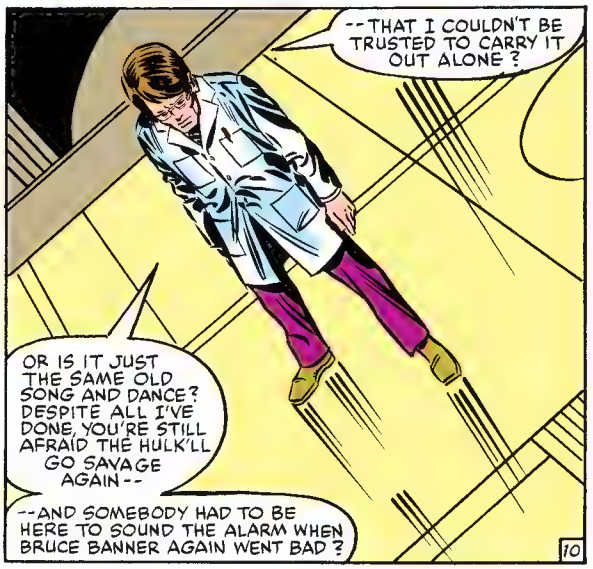

NO YOU'RE NOT, MONSTER! TAKE ANOTHER STEP, AND...!
WHATCHA GOT THERE, BABY? A CAN OF *MACE?* TEARS AIN'T GONNA KEEP ME FROM BANNER!

NO, BUT AN *ION-DISRUPTOR* SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTAIN YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR HELP TO ARRIVE.
VREET

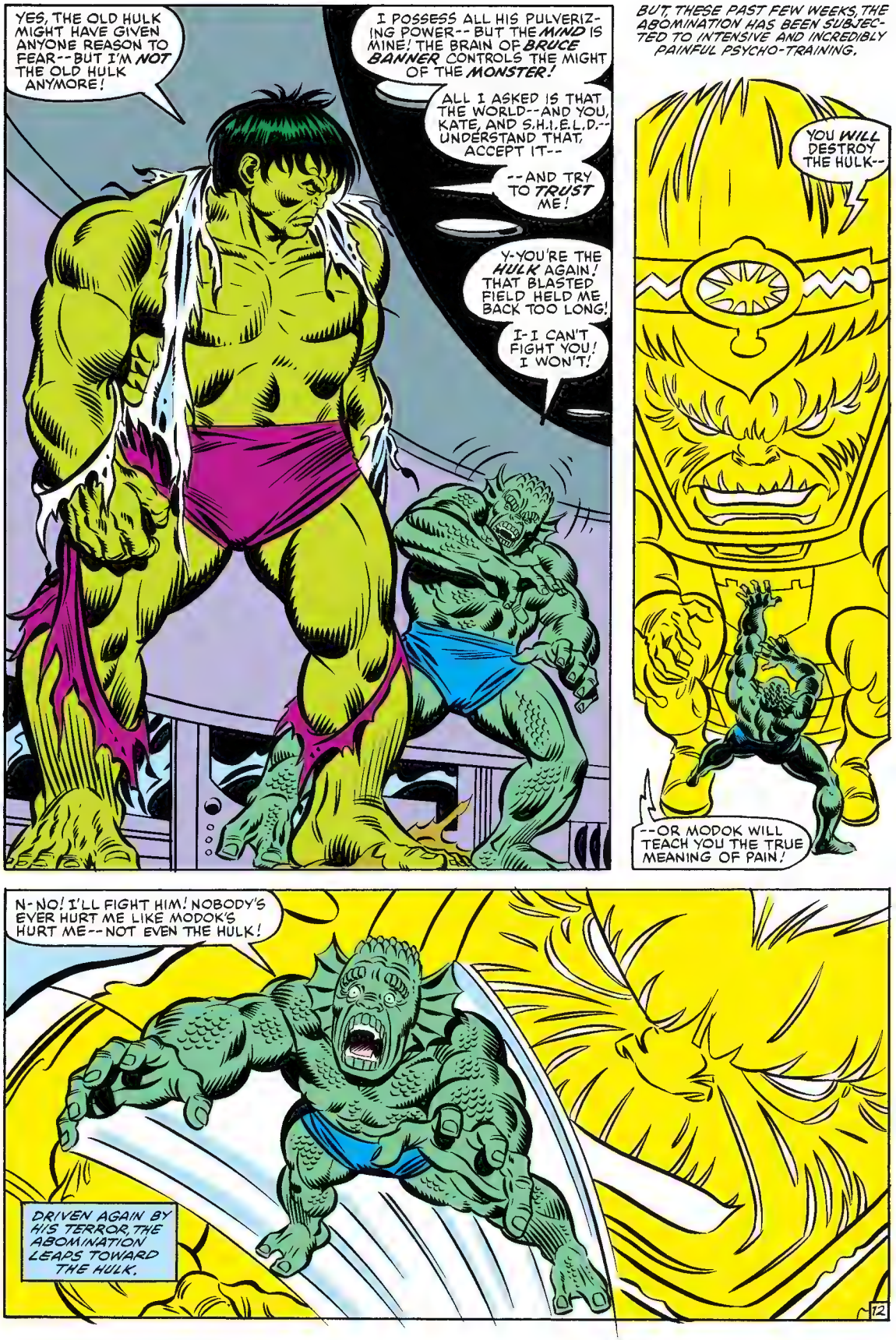
YEEARRGH!
THE IONIC FIELD SEEMS TO HOLD THE ABOMINATION FAST...

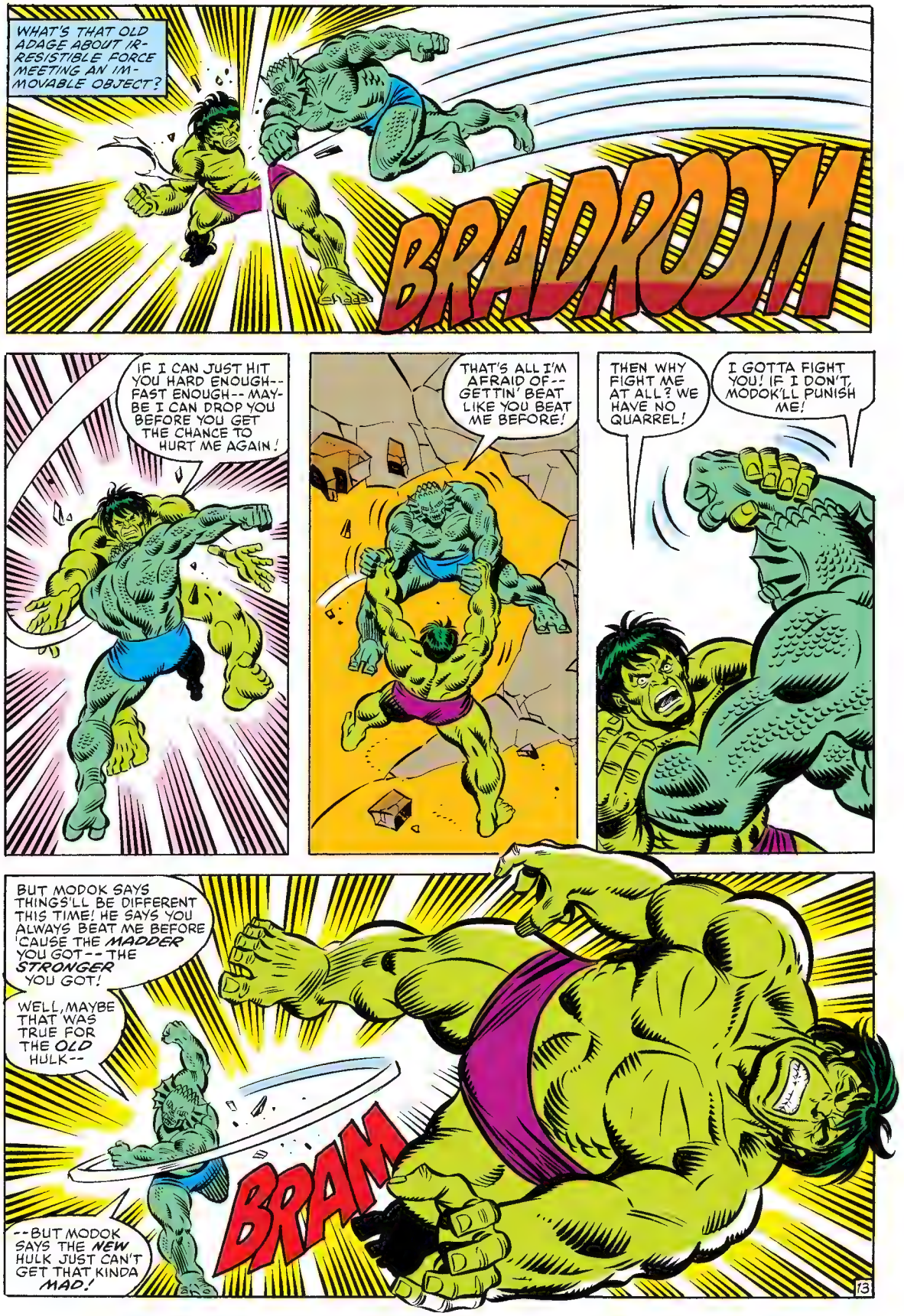
...GIVING A WIDE-EYED BRUCE BANNER A CHANCE TO QUERY HIS RESEARCH ASSISTANT.
KATE, THAT BLASTER--?
S.H.I.E.L.D. ISSUE, BRUCE!

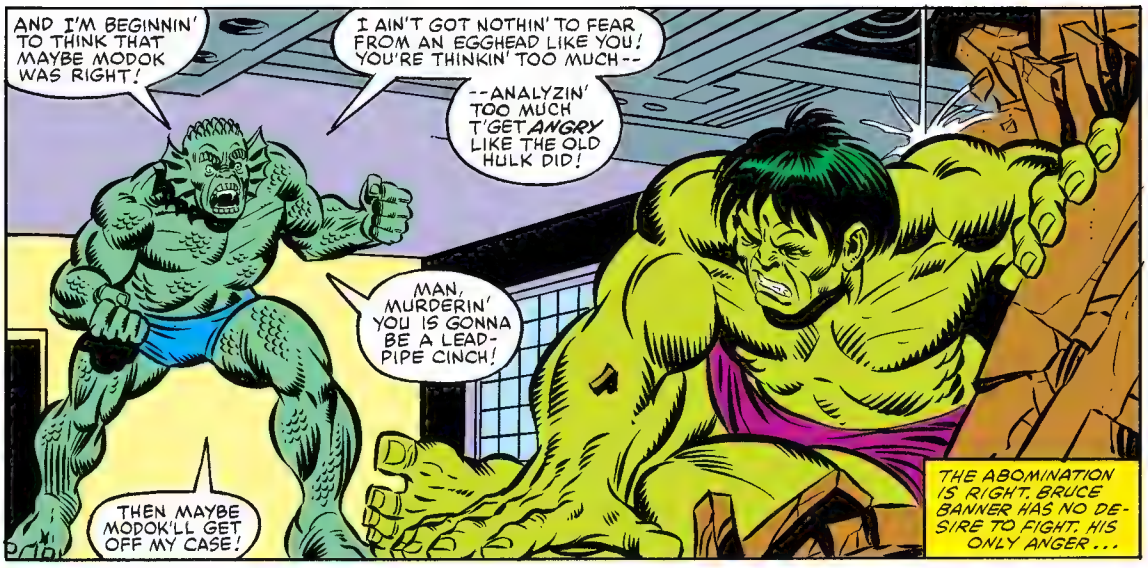
THEN... YOU'RE *MORE* THAN MERELY MY RESEARCH ASSISTANT? YOU'RE... WHAT?
MY BABY-SITTER? WATCHDOG? JAILER?
WHY, KATE? DOES S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEM MY GAMMA RAY RESEARCH SO VITAL TO OUR NATION'S SECURITY--


--THAT I COULDN'T BE TRUSTED TO CARRY IT OUT ALONE?
OR IS IT JUST THE SAME OLD SONG AND DANCE? DESPITE ALL I'VE DONE, YOU'RE STILL AFRAID THE HULK'LL GO SAVAGE AGAIN--
--AND SOMEBODY HAD TO BE HERE TO SOUND THE ALARM WHEN BRUCE BANNER AGAIN WENT BAD?
10

RARRGH! I'M OUT! I KNEW NO STINKIN' ENERGY-FIELD COULD HOLD ME FOR LONG!
YOU'RE ALL AFRAID I'LL BE-COME LIKE THE ABOMINATION AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
A GAMMA-CHARGED GARGOYLE VENTING HIS RAGE ON A DEFENSELESS EARTH!
WORSE! THE ABOMINATION, AT LEAST, IS CONSCIOUS OF HIS ACTIONS! HE CAN BE REASONED WITH!
THE MENACE OF THE HULK LAY NOT ONLY IN HIS VAST, UNBEATABLE STRENGTH--
--BUT IN THE FACT THAT HIS VERY MINDLESSNESS FUELED AN IRRATIONAL ANGER...
...THAT MADE HIM THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
17


YES, THE OLD HULK MIGHT HAVE GIVEN ANYONE REASON TO FEAR--BUT I'M NOT THE OLD HULK ANYMORE!
I POSSESS ALL HIS PULVERIZING POWER--BUT THE MIND IS MINE! THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER CONTROLS THE MIGHT OF THE MONSTER!
ALL I ASKED IS THAT THE WORLD--AND YOU, KATE, AND S.H.I.E.L.D.--UNDERSTAND THAT, ACCEPT IT--
--AND TRY TO TRUST ME!
Y-YOU'RE THE HULK AGAIN! THAT BLASTED FIELD HELD ME BACK TOO LONG!
I-I CAN'T FIGHT YOU! I WON'T!
BUT, THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE ABOMINATION HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO INTENSIVE AND INCREDIBLY PAINFUL PSYCHO-TRAINING.
YOU WILL DESTROY THE HULK--
--OR MODOK WILL TEACH YOU THE TRUE MEANING OF PAIN!
N-NO! I'LL FIGHT HIM! NOBODY'S EVER HURT ME LIKE MODOK'S HURT ME--NOT EVEN THE HULK!
DRIVEN AGAIN BY HIS TERROR, THE ABOMINATION LEAPS TOWARD THE HULK.
12


WHAT'S THAT OLD ADAGE ABOUT IRRESISTIBLE FORCE MEETING AN IMMOVABLE OBJECT?
BRADROOM
IF I CAN JUST HIT YOU HARD ENOUGH--FAST ENOUGH--MAYBE I CAN DROP YOU BEFORE YOU GET THE CHANCE TO HURT ME AGAIN!
THAT'S ALL I'M AFRAID OF--GETTIN' BEAT LIKE YOU BEAT ME BEFORE!
THEN WHY FIGHT ME AT ALL? WE HAVE NO QUARREL!
I GOTTA FIGHT YOU! IF I DON'T, MODOK'LL PUNISH ME!
BUT MODOK SAYS THINGS'LL BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME! HE SAYS YOU ALWAYS BEAT ME BEFORE 'CAUSE THE MADDER YOU GOT--THE STRONGER YOU GOT!
WELL, MAYBE THAT WAS TRUE FOR THE OLD HULK--
BRAM
--BUT MODOK SAYS THE NEW HULK JUST CAN'T GET THAT KINDA MAD!
13

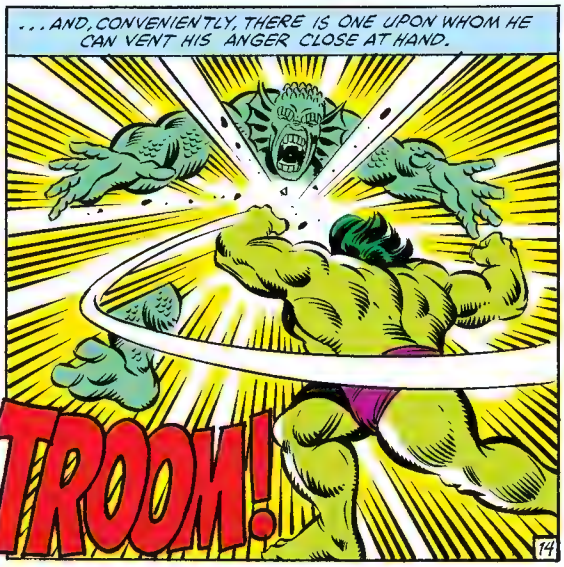

AND I'M BEGINNIN' TO THINK THAT MAYBE MODOK WAS RIGHT!
I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO FEAR FROM AN EGGHEAD LIKE YOU! YOU'RE THINKIN' TOO MUCH--
--ANALYZIN' TOO MUCH T'GET ANGRY LIKE THE OLD HULK DID!
MAN, MURDERIN' YOU IS GONNA BE A LEAD-PIPE CINCH!
THEN MAYBE MODOK'LL GET OFF MY CASE!
THE ABOMINATION IS RIGHT. BRUCE BANNER HAS NO DESIRE TO FIGHT. HIS ONLY ANGER...

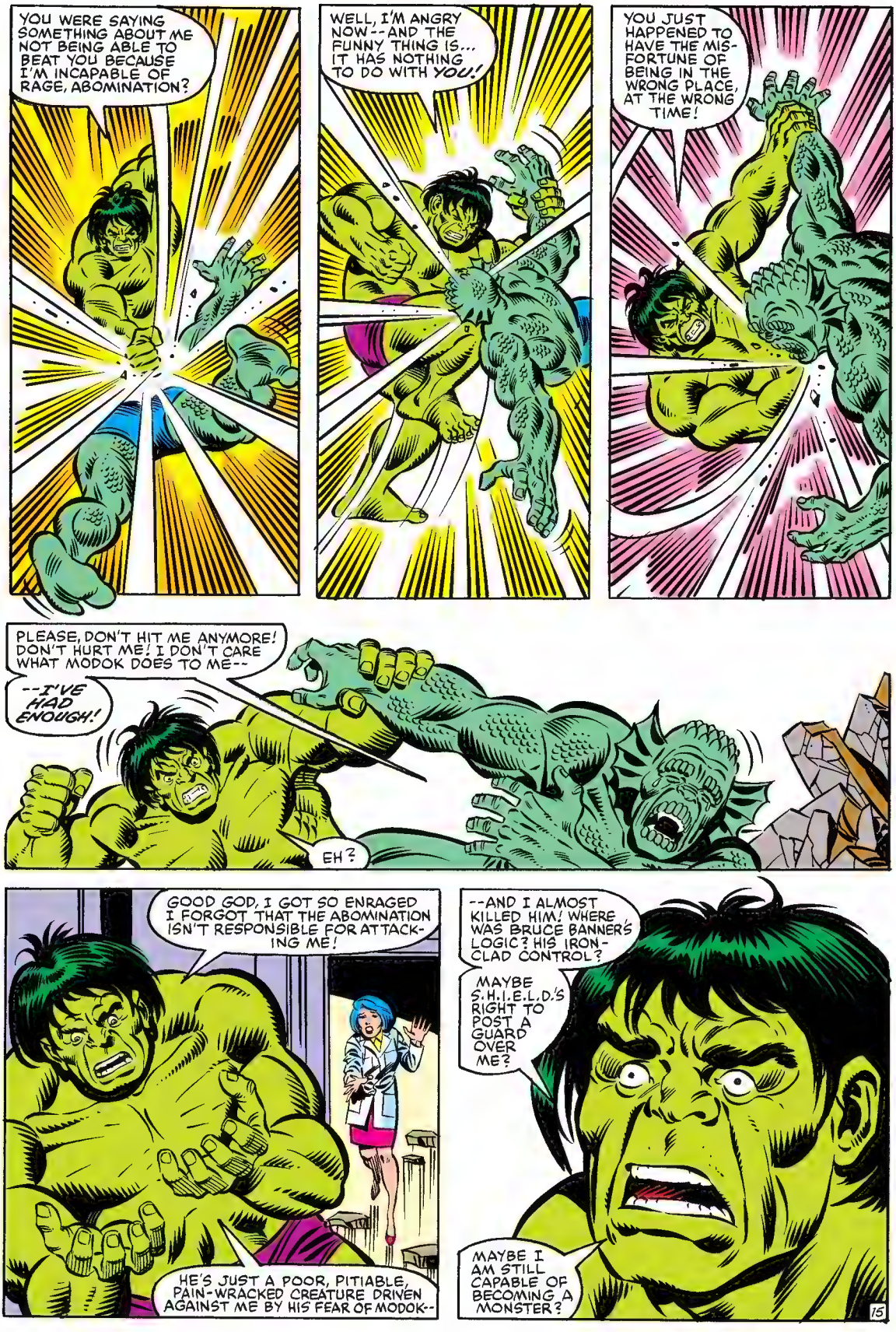
...IS DIRECTED AT ONE HE THOUGHT WAS A FRIEND--AND MORE THAN A FRIEND.
AGENT WAYNESBORO TO S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER! COME IN!

IT WAS KATHERINE WAYNESBORO WHO HAD EASED HIS TRANSITION BACK INTO SOCIETY.
IT WAS SHE WHO HAD HELPED HIM GET OVER THE LOSS OF BETTY ROSS.

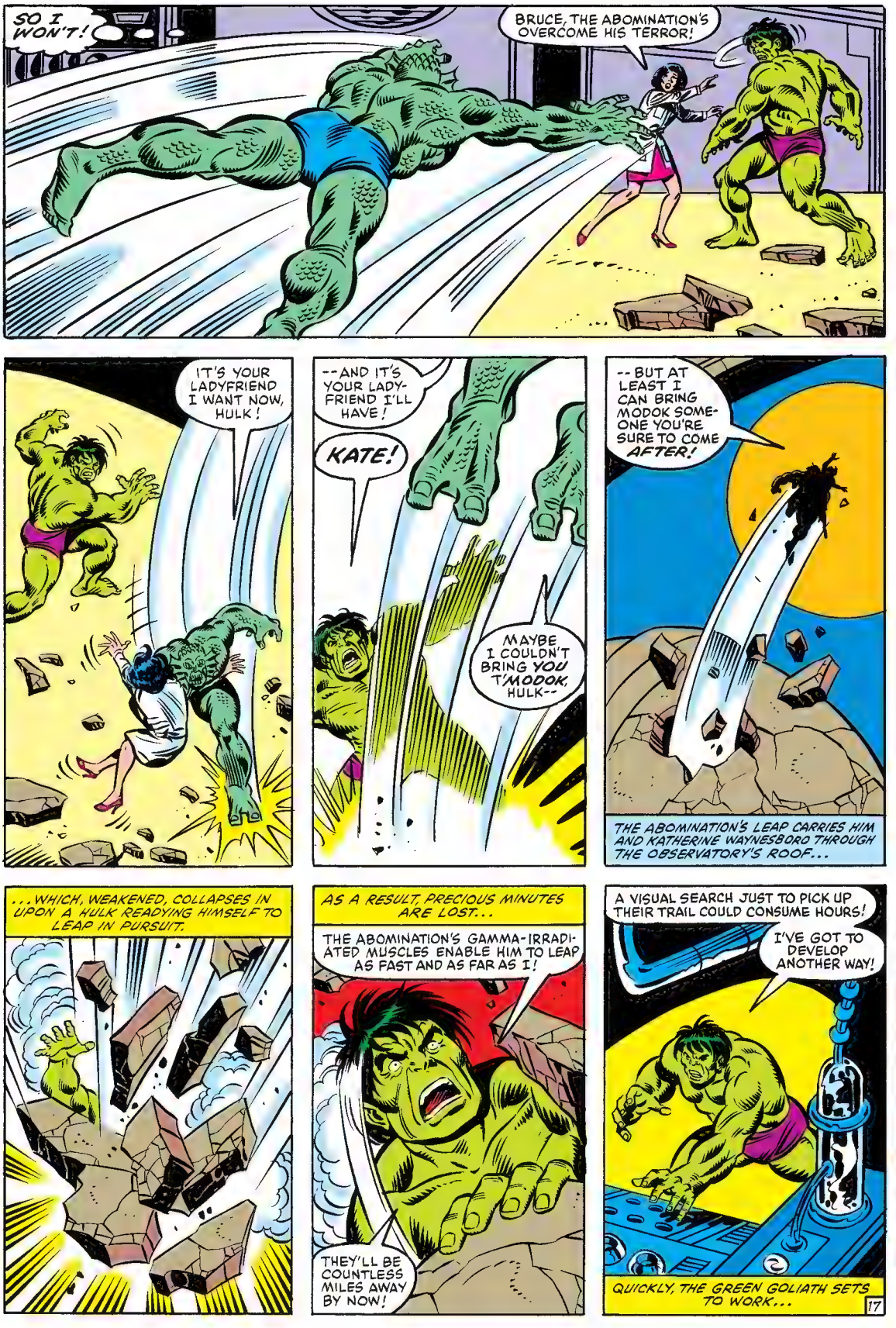
HE CAME TO TRUST HER, CONFIDE IN HER, REVEAL HIS HOPES AND DREAMS TO HER.
HE CAME TO LOVE HER...
...AND SHE BETRAYED HIM.

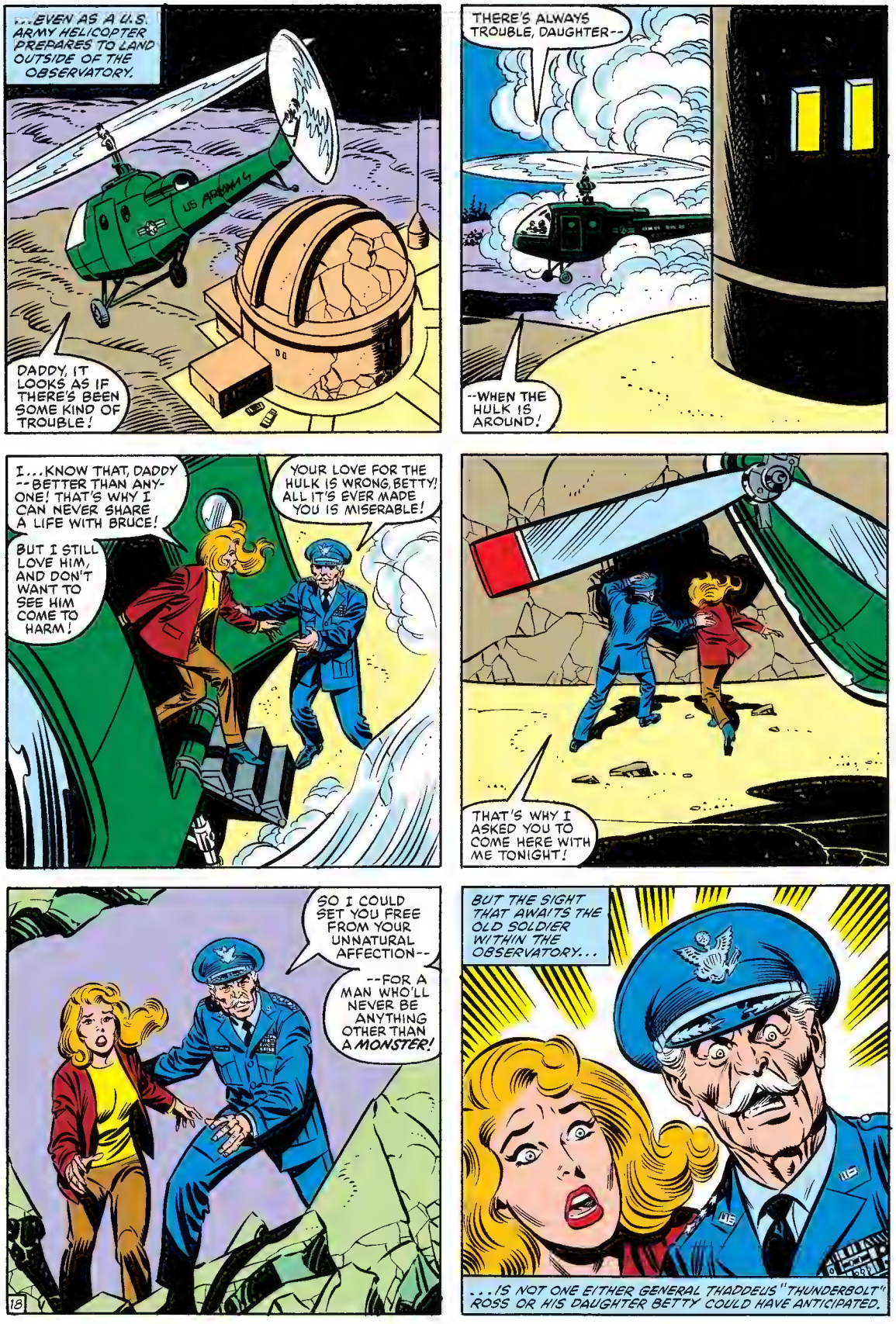
THAT BETRAYAL CAUSES THE INCREDIBLE HULK TO RISE UP ANGRY...


...AND, CONVENIENTLY, THERE IS ONE UPON WHOM HE CAN VENT HIS ANGER CLOSE AT HAND.
TROOM!
14


YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT ME NOT BEING ABLE TO BEAT YOU BECAUSE I'M INCAPABLE OF RAGE, ABOMINATION?
WELL, I'M ANGRY NOW--AND THE FUNNY THING IS... IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
YOU JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE THE MISFORTUNE OF BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE, AT THE WRONG TIME!
PLEASE, DON'T HIT ME ANYMORE! DON'T HURT ME! I DON'T CARE WHAT MODOK DOES TO ME--
--I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
EH?
GOOD GOD, I GOT SO ENRAGED I FORGOT THAT THE ABOMINATION ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACKING ME!
HE'S JUST A POOR, PITIABLE, PAIN-WRACKED CREATURE DRIVEN AGAINST ME BY HIS FEAR OF MODOK--
--AND I ALMOST KILLED HIM! WHERE WAS BRUCE BANNER'S LOGIC? HIS IRON-CLAD CONTROL?
MAYBE S.H.I.E.L.D.'S RIGHT TO POST A GUARD OVER ME?
MAYBE I AM STILL CAPABLE OF BECOMING A MONSTER?
15

MAYBE NOTHING'S REALLY CHANGED?!
BRUCE, STOP IT! YOU JUST DEFENDED YOURSELF AGAINST A BERSERK BEHEMOTH, THAT'S ALL!
NO! I LOST CONTROL! I WANTED TO LASH OUT AT YOU AND S.H.I.E.L.D.--
--AND INSTEAD I NEARLY MAIMED A MONSTER DRIVEN TO ATTACK ME OUT OF TERROR!
YOU WERE SCARED, TOO?!
NO. I WAS NEVER AFRAID. I FELT SORRY FOR MYSELF--
--AND THAT SELF-PITY MADE ME GO WILD.
IF I CAN'T CONTROL MY OWN EMOTIONS, I'LL ALWAYS BE A MENACE!
BRUCE, THAT'S TRUE OF ANYONE--MAN OR WOMAN!
WE ALL CARRY OUR OWN MONSTERS WITHIN US--EMOTIONAL DEMONS JUST WAITING TO BREAK OUT AND LAY WASTE TO OUR LIVES!
YOU'RE JUST MORE CAPABLE OF WREAKING DESTRUCTION ON YOUR OWN DREAMS THAN OTHERS! I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU CONTROL THAT TENDENCY--
--IF YOU'LL LET ME!
THE HULK BEAT ME AGAIN--HURT ME AGAIN!
I-I CAN'T SUBJECT MYSELF TO ANY MORE DRUBBIN' LIKE THAT!
BUT WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T TRY T'HIDE! MODOK KNOWS MY MIND-PATTERNS--HE'D FIND ME!
AND I DON'T DARE RETURN T'HIM EMPTY-HANDED!
16


SO I WON'T!
BRUCE, THE ABOMINATION'S OVERCOME HIS TERROR!
IT'S YOUR LADYFRIEND I WANT NOW, HULK!
--AND IT'S YOUR LADY-FRIEND I'LL HAVE!
KATE!
MAYBE I COULDN'T BRING YOU T'MODOK, HULK--
--BUT AT LEAST I CAN BRING MODOK SOME-ONE YOU'RE SURE TO COME AFTER!
THE ABOMINATION'S LEAP CARRIES HIM AND KATHERINE WAYNESBORO THROUGH THE OBSERVATORY'S ROOF...
...WHICH, WEAKENED, COLLAPSES IN UPON A HULK READYING HIMSELF TO LEAP IN PURSUIT.
AS A RESULT, PRECIOUS MINUTES ARE LOST...
THE ABOMINATION'S GAMMA-IRRADI-ATED MUSCLES ENABLE HIM TO LEAP AS FAST AND AS FAR AS I!
THEY'LL BE COUNTLESS MILES AWAY BY NOW!
A VISUAL SEARCH JUST TO PICK UP THEIR TRAIL COULD CONSUME HOURS!
I'VE GOT TO DEVELOP ANOTHER WAY!
QUICKLY, THE GREEN GOLIATH SETS TO WORK...
17


...EVEN AS A U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER PREPARES TO LAND OUTSIDE OF THE OBSERVATORY.
DADDY, IT LOOKS AS IF THERE'S BEEN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE!
THERE'S ALWAYS TROUBLE, DAUGHTER--
--WHEN THE HULK IS AROUND!
I...KNOW THAT, DADDY--BETTER THAN ANYONE! THAT'S WHY I CAN NEVER SHARE A LIFE WITH BRUCE!
BUT I STILL LOVE HIM, AND DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM COME TO HARM!
YOUR LOVE FOR THE HULK IS WRONG, BETTY! ALL IT'S EVER MADE YOU IS MISERABLE!
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME HERE WITH ME TONIGHT!
SO I COULD SET YOU FREE FROM YOUR UNNATURAL AFFECTION--
--FOR A MAN WHO'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN A MONSTER!
BUT THE SIGHT THAT AWAITS THE OLD SOLDIER WITHIN THE OBSERVATORY...
...IS NOT ONE EITHER GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS OR HIS DAUGHTER BETTY COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED.
18

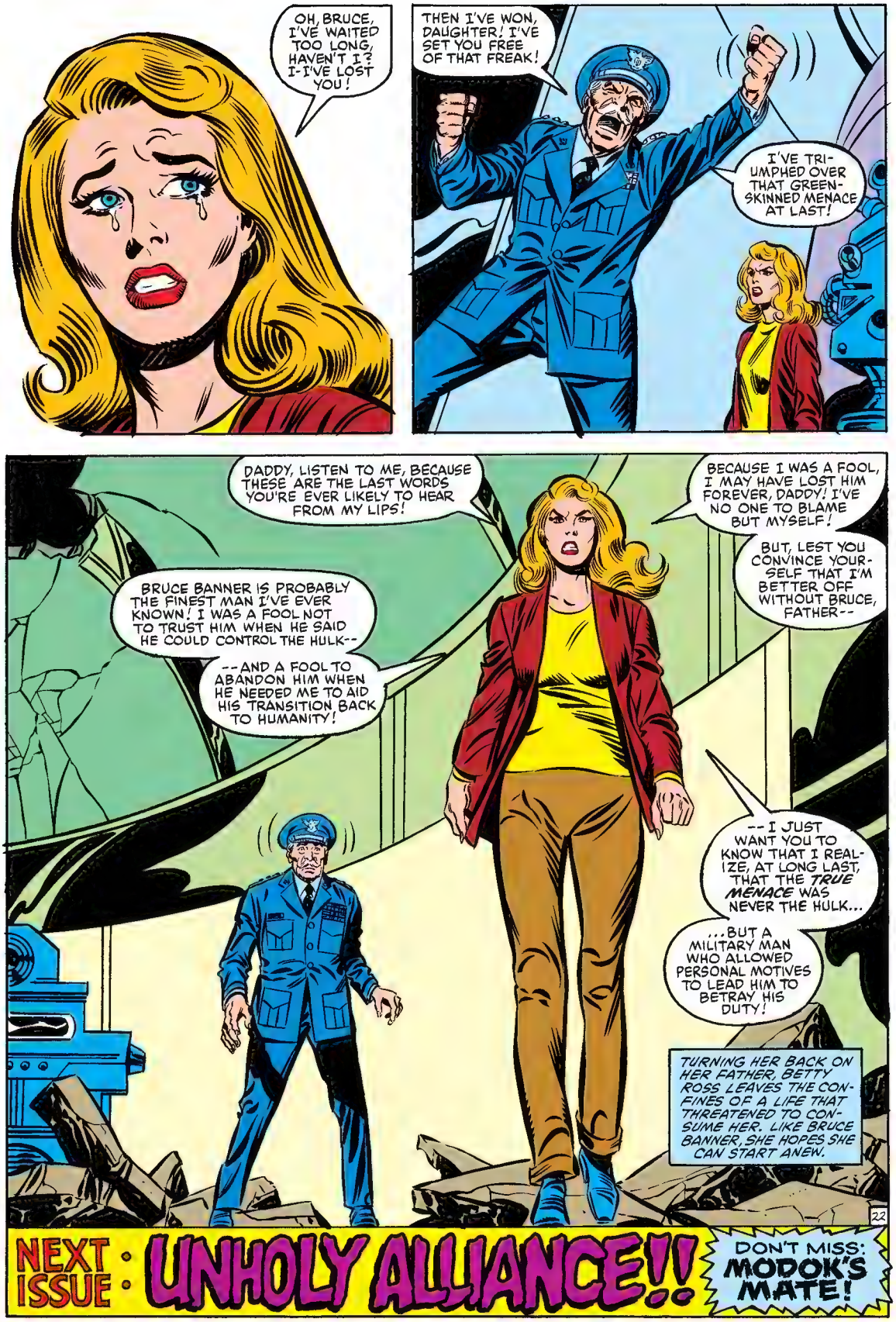
OH, BRUCE, THANK HEAVEN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE ALIVE!
B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T BE!

MODOK SWORE HE'D SEND THE ABOMINATION TO DESTROY YOU!!!

HE TRIED, ROSS. AND HE FAILED. BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, GENERAL--
--IS HOW *YOU* KNEW WHAT HE WAS PLANNING, AND WHY YOU DID *NOTHING* TO STOP IT?
19

ANSWER ME, OLD MAN! A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT'S LIFE IS IN DANGER. THE ABOMINATION TOOK OFF WITH HER AFTER OUR FIGHT!
H-HE WAS IN MY CUSTODY-- AT A SECRET MILITARY BASE!
I-I TURNED HIM OVER TO MODOK...
TO KILL THE HULK, DADDY?! YOU SET LOOSE A MONSTER TO KILL A MONSTER--
--HOPING THAT, WITH THE HULK DESTROYED, I'D GIVE UP LOVING BRUCE BANNER?
THE ABOMINATION SHOWED UP HERE ALL RIGHT, ROSS-- A FEAR-CRAZED CREATURE DRIVEN TO DESTROY ME!
BUT HE FAILED-- THANKS TO THE HULK'S SAVAGE STRENGTH!
I BEAT HIM SO BADLY, I ALMOST KILLED HIM -- AND I WOULD HAVE, IF MY HUMANITY HADN'T REASSERTED ITSELF IN TIME!
YOUR FATHER'S WRONG, BETTY. I MAY HAVE THE POWER OF THE HULK -- BUT I'M NO LONGER A MONSTER.
I...BELIEVE YOU, BRUCE! I DO!
I ONLY WISH I COULD HAVE COME TO MY SENSES, SOONER!
BETTY, ARE YOU MAD? HOW CAN YOU PERSIST IN LOVING THIS...THIS CREATURE?!
BRUCE HAS FACED ADVERSITY THAT WOULD HAVE DRIVEN ANY OTHER MAN TO INSANITY, DADDY.
AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS, HE OVERCAME HIS CURSE--
--AND PROVED HIMSELF A MAN!
20

HE WON THE RESPECT, ADMIRATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THIS NATION AND THE WORLD, DADDY! THE PRESIDENT PARDONED HIM OF ANY "CRIMES" HE MAY HAVE COMMITTED WHILE HE WAS THE MONSTROUS HULK!
AND YOU, DADDY, WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION, VIOLATED YOUR DUTY TO TRY AND DESTROY AN INNOCENT MAN!
THEY HAVE A WORD FOR THAT, DADDY... TREASON!
THE GAMMA-TRACKER IS FINISHED!
BETTY, I'VE GOT TO GO!
YOU SAID THAT THE ABOMINATION'D KIDNAPPED A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT--A WOMAN?
KATHERINE WAYNESBORO, I ASSUME SHE'S BAIT TO DRAW ME INTO A TRAP.
DOES SHE... MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU, BRUCE?
I...DON'T KNOW, BETTY. MAYBE, BUT RIGHT NOW SHE'S JUST A HUMAN BEING IN THE HANDS OF A FIEND--
--AND I'LL EXERT ALL THE POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK TO SAVE HER!
THE MIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES OF ANY MORTAL FLEX AND UNCOIL--DRIVING THE GREAT GREEN GARGANTUA INTO THE SKY.
21


OH, BRUCE, I'VE WAITED TOO LONG, HAVEN'T I? I-I'VE LOST YOU!
THEN I'VE WON, DAUGHTER! I'VE SET YOU FREE OF THAT FREAK!
I'VE TRIUMPHED OVER THAT GREEN-SKINNED MENACE AT LAST!
DADDY, LISTEN TO ME, BECAUSE THESE ARE THE LAST WORDS YOU'RE EVER LIKELY TO HEAR FROM MY LIPS!
BECAUSE I WAS A FOOL, I MAY HAVE LOST HIM FOREVER, DADDY! I'VE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF!
BUT, LEST YOU CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT I'M BETTER OFF WITHOUT BRUCE, FATHER--
BRUCE BANNER IS PROBABLY THE FINEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN! I WAS A FOOL NOT TO TRUST HIM WHEN HE SAID HE COULD CONTROL THE HULK--
--AND A FOOL TO ABANDON HIM WHEN HE NEEDED ME TO AID HIS TRANSITION BACK TO HUMANITY!
--I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I REALIZE, AT LONG LAST, THAT THE TRUE MENACE WAS NEVER THE HULK...
...BUT A MILITARY MAN WHO ALLOWED PERSONAL MOTIVES TO LEAD HIM TO BETRAY HIS DUTY!
TURNING HER BACK ON HER FATHER, BETTY ROSS LEAVES THE CONFINES OF A LIFE THAT THREATENED TO CONSUME HER. LIKE BRUCE BANNER, SHE HOPES SHE CAN START ANEW.
22
NEXT ISSUE • UNHOLY ALLIANCE!!
DON'T MISS: MODOK'S MATE!

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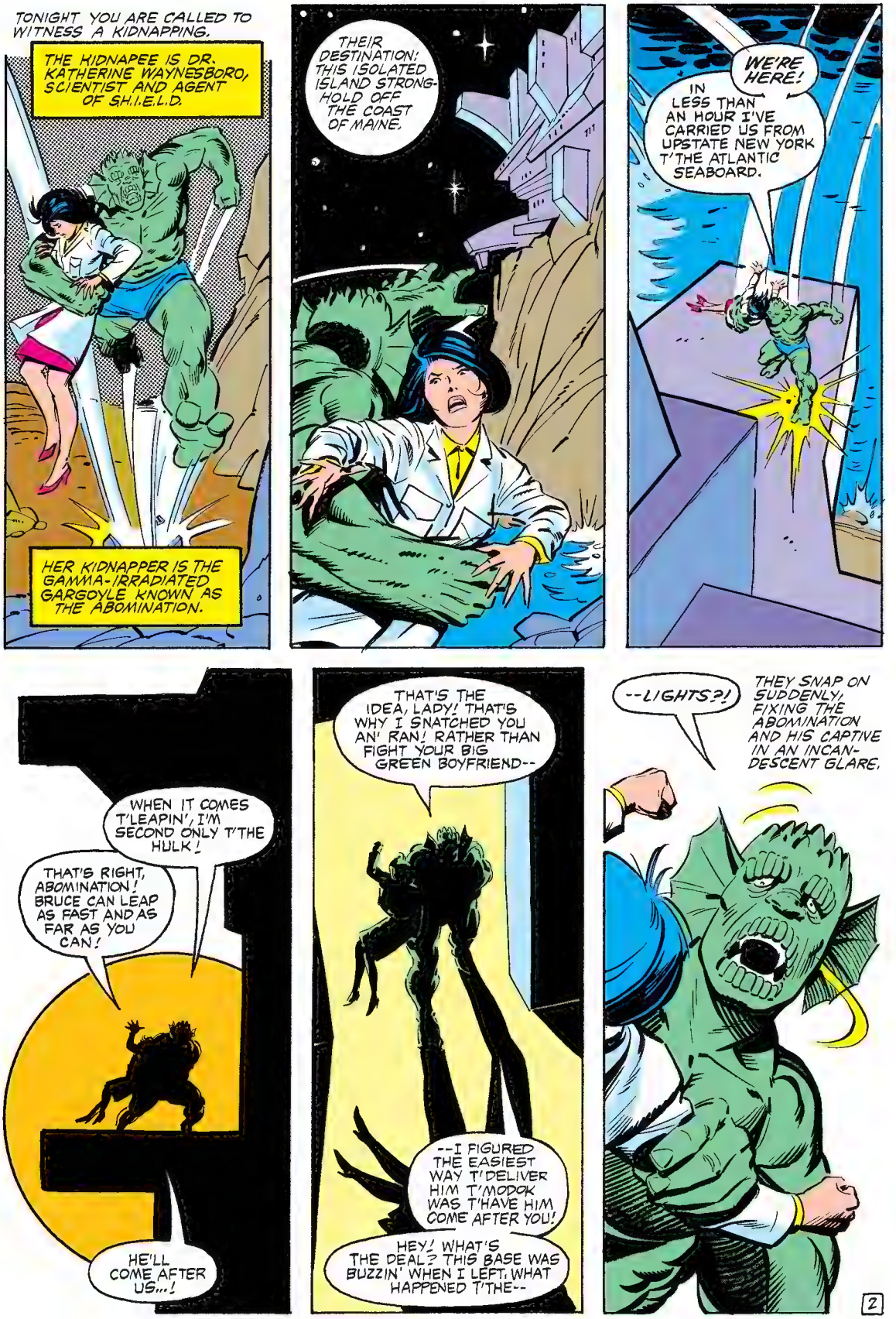
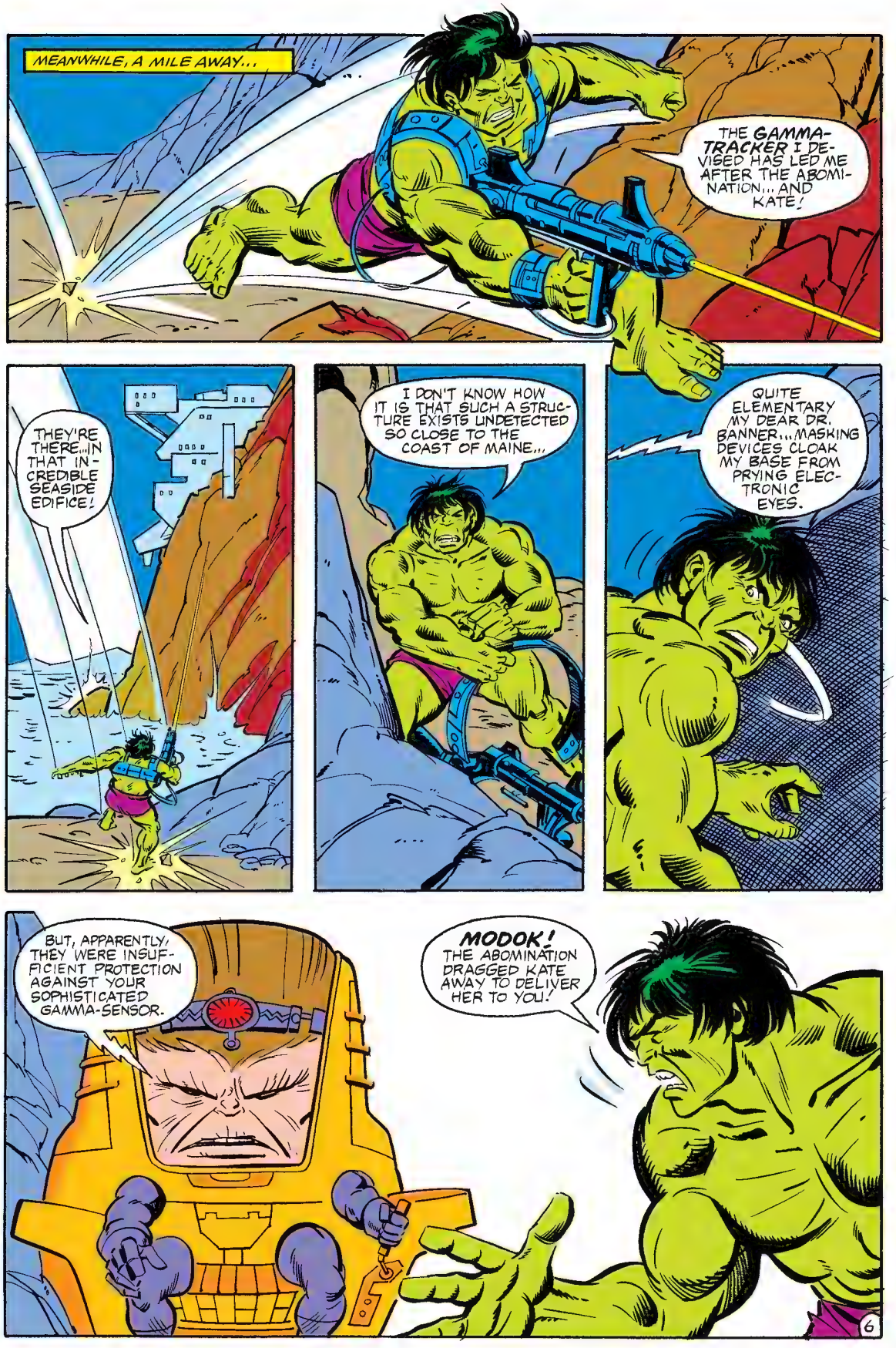
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE INCREDIBLE HULK!®
BILL MANTLO STORY • SAL BUSCEMA & CARLOS GARZON ART • MICKEY HIGGINS LETTERS • BOB SHAREN COLORS • CARL POTTS EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER MASTER OF CEREMONIES
UNHOLY ALLIANCE
ABOMINATION, WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
TO MY MASTER!
TO MODOK!


TONIGHT YOU ARE CALLED TO WITNESS A KIDNAPPING.
THE KIDNAPEE IS DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO, SCIENTIST AND AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
HER KIDNAPPER IS THE GAMMA-IRRADIATED GARGOYLE KNOWN AS THE ABOMINATION.
THEIR DESTINATION: THIS ISOLATED ISLAND STRONG-HOLD OFF THE COAST OF MAINE.
WE'RE HERE!
IN LESS THAN AN HOUR I'VE CARRIED US FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK T'THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD.
WHEN IT COMES T'LEAPIN', I'M SECOND ONLY T'THE HULK!
THAT'S RIGHT, ABOMINATION! BRUCE CAN LEAP AS FAST AND AS FAR AS YOU CAN!
HE'LL COME AFTER US...!
THAT'S THE IDEA, LADY! THAT'S WHY I SNATCHED YOU AN' RAN! RATHER THAN FIGHT YOUR BIG GREEN BOYFRIEND--
--I FIGURED THE EASIEST WAY T'DELIVER HIM T'MODOK WAS T'HAVE HIM COME AFTER YOU!
HEY! WHAT'S THE DEAL? THIS BASE WAS BUZZIN' WHEN I LEFT. WHAT HAPPENED T'THE--
--LIGHTS?!
THEY SNAP ON SUDDENLY, FIXING THE ABOMINATION AND HIS CAPTIVE IN AN INCAN-DESCENT GLARE.
2

WHAT THE...?! WE'RE SURROUNDED!!
STAND, MONSTER-- OR BE SLAIN!
KILL THE CREATURE ANYWAY! HE WAS A SERVANT OF MODOK!
AND WE HAVE OVERTHROWN MODOK!
MODOK'S GONE? KICKED OUT BY A.I.M.?*
*ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS
THAT'S GOOD! THAT'S GREAT! LISTEN, I DIDN'T WANT T'SERVE MODOK! HE MADE ME-- TORTURED ME 'TIL I HADDA SAY YES!
3
NOW I'M FREE OF HIM! YOU MADE ME FREE! LET ME LIVE AN' I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!

COWERING AND CRINGING, THE ABOMINATION CROUCHES IN ABJECT FEAR, AWAITING JUDGEMENT. WHEN IT COMES IT IS NEITHER PARDON NOR PUNISHMENT,,, ONLY PITY.
THIS CREATURE CANNOT HARM US.
MODOK RULED HIM AS HE RULED US.
YES, BUT MODOK'S REIGN OF TERROR IS ENDED.
AS A.I.M IS FREE--
--SO SHALL THIS MONSTER BE FREE.
BUT WHAT OF THE WOMAN--THE CAPTIVE THE CREATURE INTENDED TO DELIVER OVER TO MODOK?
I'M JUST A SCIENTIST! I DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS TAKEN!
LOOK! THAT DEVICE ON HER WRIST!
A.S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMUNICATOR!
THERE CAN BE NO DENYING TONY STARK'S HANDIWORK.
SO! A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT! AND THE ABOMINATION BROUGHT YOU HERE TO GIVE TO MODOK--
--AS BAIT FOR THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
WHAT'S YOUR PART IN ALL THIS?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MODOK'S PLANS!
NO? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU, THEN,,, MODOK INTENDED TO USE THE ABOMINATION TO SMASH DISSENSION IN A.I.M.'S RANKS.
BUT WHEN HE PROCURED THE ABOMINATION'S SERVICES, HE HAD TO BARGAIN WITH GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS.
THE NATURE OF THEIR COMPACT: MODOK COULD HAVE THE ABOMINATION TO SUBDUE A.I.M.--IF THE ABOMINATION FIRST SLEW THE HULK.
4

BUT WHAT MODOK PLANNED IS IMMATERIAL! THE MIND-MONSTER HAS BEEN DRIVEN OFF! A.I.M. RULES THE ROOST--FREE OF HIS DASTARDLY DOMINATION AGAIN!
BUT MODOK HAS SWORN TO RETURN--AND WE MUST BE READY FOR HIM.
AND YOU, WOMAN, SHALL BECOME THE CONVENIENT WEAPON OF HIS DESTRUCTION!
ME?! HOW?!
MODOK WAS ONCE AN A.I.M. AGENT CHOSEN FROM OUR RANKS.
A POOR CHOICE, A.I.M. MISTRUSTS EVERYONE--ITS AGENTS MOST OF ALL.
THUS, WE NEEDED SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE OUR ORGANIZATION FOR OUR NEW EXPERIMENT.
EXPERIMENT?
YES! WE INTEND TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!
A.I.M. CREATED MODOK, BUT THE CREATION TURNED ON HIS CREATORS.
STILL, ONLY ANOTHER POSSESSED OF MODOK'S STAGGERING PSIONIC POWERS CAN HOPE TO DEFEAT HIM.
SO, YOU INTEND TO CREATE... ANOTHER MODOK?
A BETTER MODOK!
ALTERATION CHAMBER
A MODOK SUBJECT TO INTENSIVE HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION THAT WILL BIND HER TO OUR CONTROL EVEN AFTER HER TRANSFORMATION TO SUPER-MIND!
YOU, WOMAN, SHALL BE THE SECOND MODOK!
5

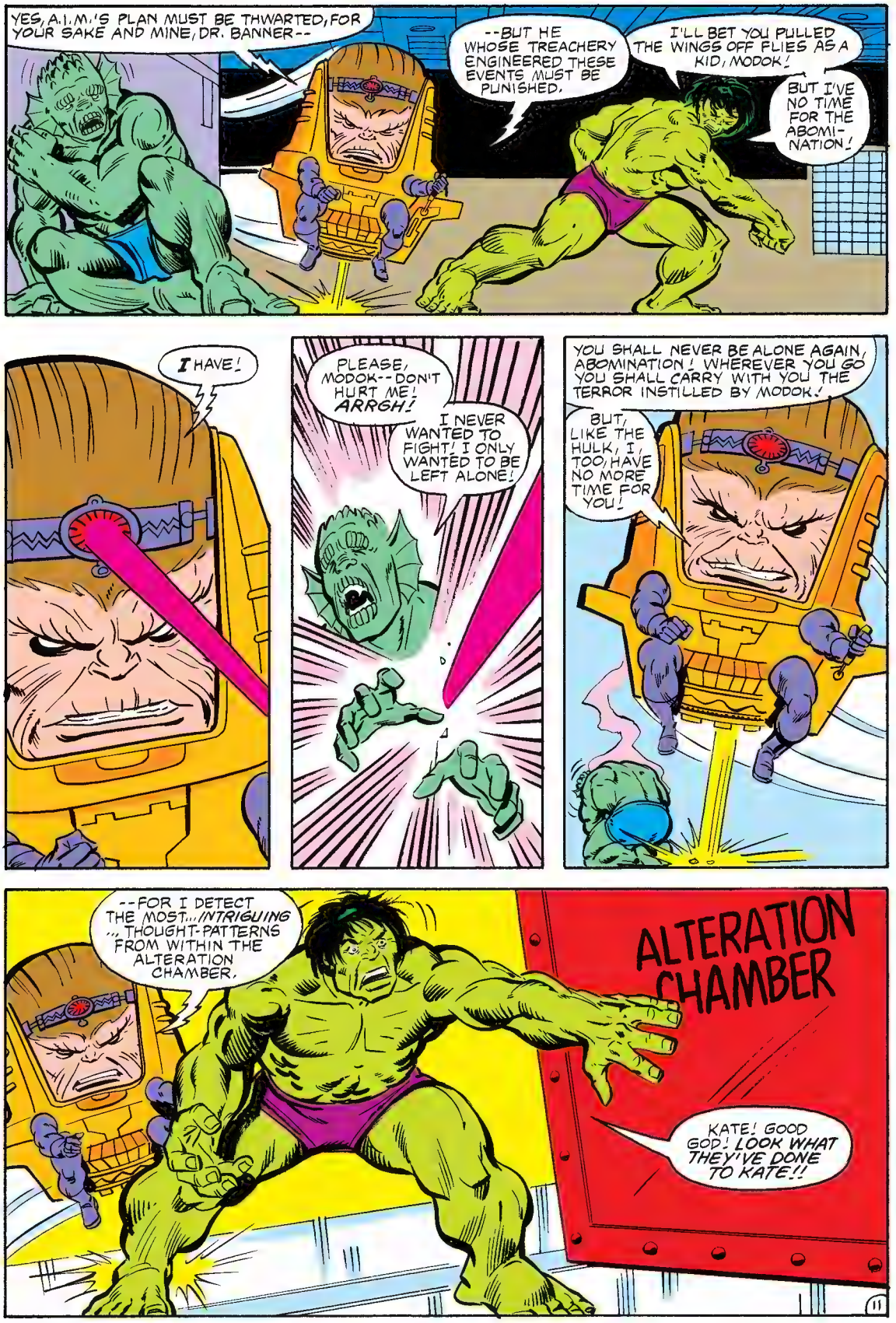

MEANWHILE, A MILE AWAY...
THE GAMMA-TRACKER I DEVISED HAS LED ME AFTER THE ABOMINATION... AND KATE!
THEY'RE THERE...IN THAT INCREDIBLE SEASIDE EDIFICE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS THAT SUCH A STRUCTURE EXISTS UNDETECTED SO CLOSE TO THE COAST OF MAINE...
QUITE ELEMENTARY MY DEAR DR. BANNER...MASKING DEVICES CLOAK MY BASE FROM PRYING ELECTRONIC EYES.
BUT, APPARENTLY, THEY WERE INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION AGAINST YOUR SOPHISTICATED GAMMA-SENSOR.
MODOK! THE ABOMINATION DRAGGED KATE AWAY TO DELIVER HER TO YOU!
6

PLEASE, DR. BANNER, RESTRAIN YOUR RAGE.
WE ARE BOTH REASONABLE MEN. LET REASON GUIDE US NOW.
A SIMPLE BRAIN-BEAM...
...AND, IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE HULK "SEES" WHAT HAS RECENTLY TRANSPIRED WITHIN THE SINISTER STRONG-HOLD.
ALTERATION CHAMBER
THE ABOMINATION TURNING KATE OVER TO AGENTS OF A.I.M.--
--FOR SOME SORT OF OBSCENE EXPERIMENT!
YES, DOCTOR. IT SEEMS THE BEST-LAID PLANS OF EVEN THE MOST MATCHLESS MINDS SOMETIMES GO AWRY.
THE ABOMINATION WAS TOO TERROR-STRICKEN TO BECOME ANYTHING BUT TREACHEROUS ONCE FREE OF ME.
AND A.I.M. HAS LIKEWISE RISEN IN REVOLT.
NOW THEY INTEND TO CREATE A NEW MODOK EVEN MIGHTIER THAN THE FIRST--TOTALLY WITHIN THEIR CONTROL--TO DESTROY ME.
ALL THEY LACKED WAS A SUBJECT TO CARRY OUT THE EXPERIMENT UPON.
AND NOW THEY HAVE ONE?
REALIZATION DAWNS...
OH, MY GOD! KATE!
7

AND, WITHIN THE A.I.M. BASE...
BRING FORTH THE FEMALE!
SHE IS READY! HER GOLDEN GARB WILL CONDUCT THE GENE-ALTERING CURRENTS.
AND POSTHYPNOTIC IMPLANTS WILL ASSURE SHE SERVES A.I.M. ALONE WHEN SHE EMERGES FROM THE CHAMBER--
--TRANSFORMED!
TRANSFORMED... INTO WHAT?
INTO A PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION OF PURE INTELLECT!
LIKE MODOK, YOUR MIND WILL BECOME A WEAPON.
UNLIKE MODOK, YOUR MIND WILL BE OURS TO COMMAND.
AND I'LL BECOME... A MONSTER?!
NO! NO!
LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT ABOUT AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
8

NOT ALL ARE CAST IN THE IMAGE OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S COMMANDER, COLONEL NICK FURY, AS COMBAT-READY COMMANDOS.
NO, SOME ARE SIMPLY SCIENTISTS, SERVING THE CAUSE FROM LABS RATHER THAN THE FRONTLINES.
SUCH AN AGENT IS DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO.
SO LET'S SHOW A LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE LADY.
AFTER ALL, HOW MANY OF US COULD FACE WHAT SHE'S FACING... AND NOT SCREAM IN BLOODY TERROR?
JUST THEN...
EXCELLENT, DR. BANNER, YOU HAVE BREACHED MY BASE.
IT WAS YOUR MENTAL SHIELDING THAT ALLOWED US TO APPROACH THUS FAR UNDETECTED, MODOK.
"BUT I DARESAY THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN HIDE OUR ARRIVAL NOW!"
MODOK!
AND THE HULK!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
NOW THAT'S AN ASTUTE OBSERVATION IF I'VE EVER HEARD ONE!
THRAK
9

SCATTERING THOSE WHO STAND AGAINST US IS NOT ENOUGH, DOCTOR.
YOU MUST STRIKE WITHOUT MERCY IF YOU WISH TO HALT THEIR EXPERIMENT.
YAARGHH!
YOU'RE THE MENTAL ORGANISM DESIGNED ONLY FOR KILLING, MODOK!
I'M THE HULK-- A MAN WHO'S PROVEN TO THE WORLD HE'S NO LONGER A MONSTER!
I WON'T BECOME ONE AGAIN!
I FIND THE MORAL RESTRAINTS YOU PLACE UPON YOURSELF LAUGHABLE, DR. BANNER.
BUT, AS WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR INITIAL OBJECTIVE, THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR METHODS ARE IMMATERIAL.
WE'VE ONLY GOTTEN INSIDE MODOK!
WE'VE STILL GOT TO SAVE KATE!
ALTERATION CHAMBER
10


YES, A.I.M.'S PLAN MUST BE THWARTED, FOR YOUR SAKE AND MINE, DR. BANNER--
--BUT HE WHOSE TREACHERY ENGINEERED THESE EVENTS MUST BE PUNISHED.
I'LL BET YOU PULLED THE WINGS OFF FLIES AS A KID, MODOK!
BUT I'VE NO TIME FOR THE ABOMI-NATION!
I HAVE!
PLEASE, MODOK--DON'T HURT ME! ARRGH!
I NEVER WANTED TO FIGHT! I ONLY WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE!
YOU SHALL NEVER BE ALONE AGAIN, ABOMINATION! WHEREVER YOU GO YOU SHALL CARRY WITH YOU THE TERROR INSTILLED BY MODOK!
BUT, LIKE THE HULK, I, TOO, HAVE NO MORE TIME FOR YOU!
--FOR I DETECT THE MOST...INTRIGUING ...THOUGHT-PATTERNS FROM WITHIN THE ALTERATION CHAMBER.
ALTERATION CHAMBER
KATE! GOOD GOD! LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO KATE!!

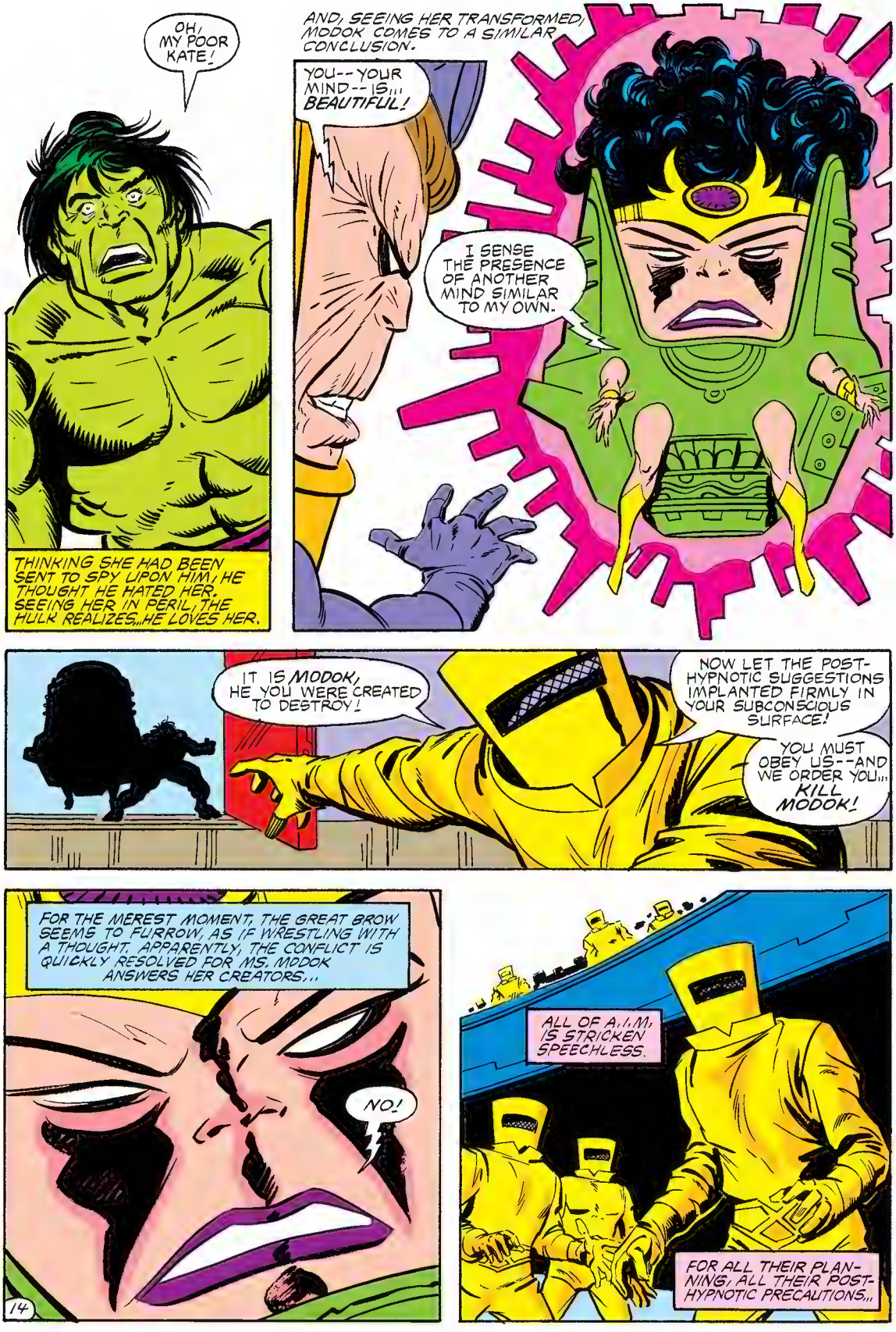
YES, GENTLE READER, LOOK... IF YOU DARE!

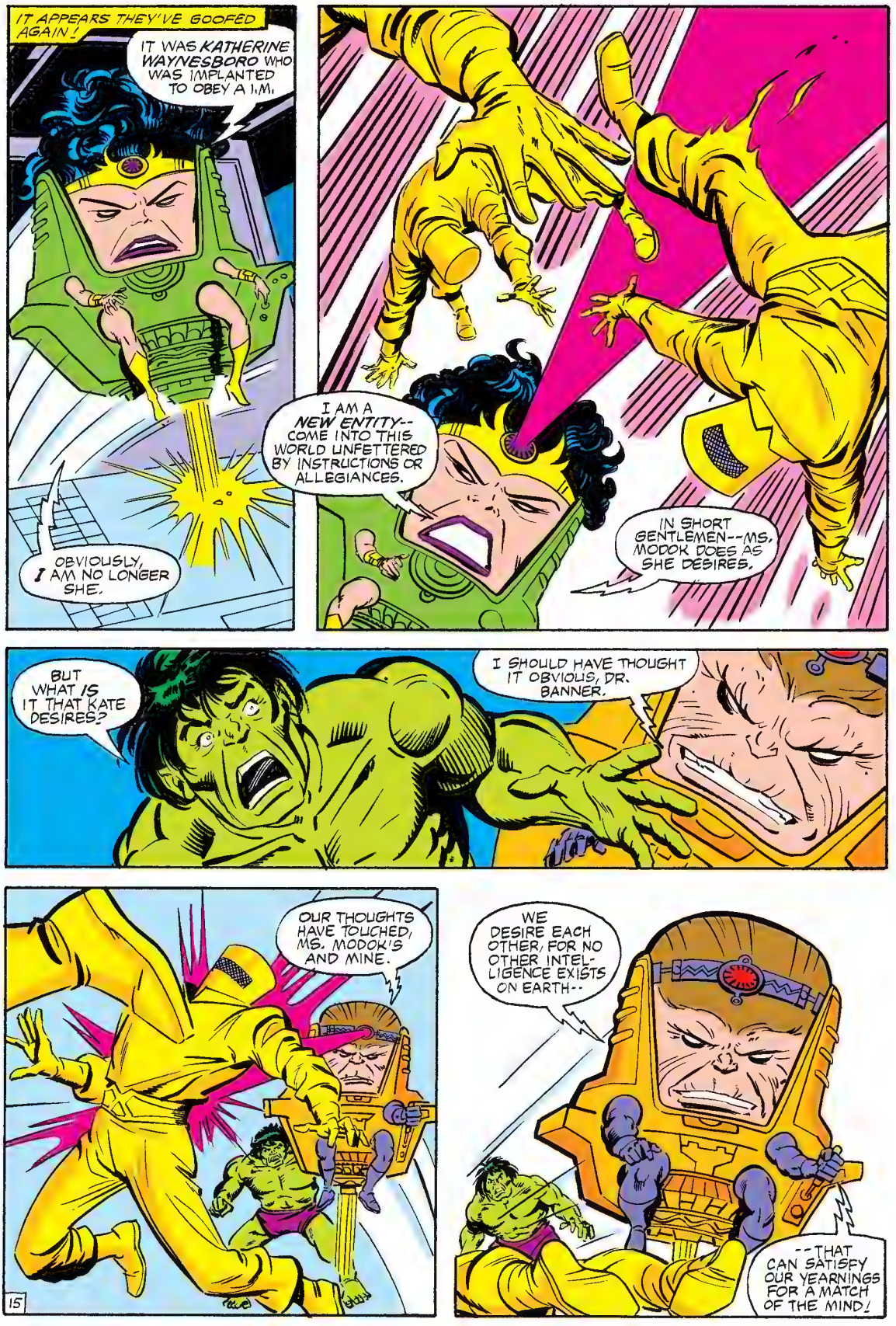
ALL HAIL... MS. MODOK!

12

WHAT HAD, SO SHORT A TIME AGO, BEEN DR. KATHERINE WAYNESBORO RISES, MIND TRANSFORMED FROM MATTER, SEATED UPON HER HOVERCHAIR LIKE A QUEEN UPON HER THRONE! YOU DON'T NEED US TO TELL YOU THAT SHE IS NOT THE WOMAN SHE WAS!

13


OH, MY POOR KATE!
THINKING SHE HAD BEEN SENT TO SPY UPON HIM, HE THOUGHT HE HATED HER. SEEING HER IN PERIL, THE HULK REALIZES...HE LOVES HER.
AND, SEEING HER TRANSFORMED, MODOK COMES TO A SIMILAR CONCLUSION.
YOU--YOUR MIND--IS... BEAUTIFUL!
I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER MIND SIMILAR TO MY OWN.
IT IS MODOK, HE YOU WERE CREATED TO DESTROY!
NOW LET THE POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS IMPLANTED FIRMLY IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS SURFACE!
YOU MUST OBEY US--AND WE ORDER YOU... KILL MODOK!
FOR THE MEREST MOMENT, THE GREAT BROW SEEMS TO FURROW, AS IF WRESTLING WITH A THOUGHT. APPARENTLY, THE CONFLICT IS QUICKLY RESOLVED FOR MS. MODOK ANSWERS HER CREATORS...
NO!
14
ALL OF A.I.M. IS STRICKEN SPEECHLESS.
FOR ALL THEIR PLANNING, ALL THEIR POST-HYPNOTIC PRECAUTIONS...


IT APPEARS THEY'VE GOOFED AGAIN!
IT WAS KATHERINE WAYNESBORO WHO WAS IMPLANTED TO OBEY A I.M.
OBVIOUSLY, I AM NO LONGER SHE.
I AM A NEW ENTITY-- COME INTO THIS WORLD UNFETTERED BY INSTRUCTIONS OR ALLEGIANCES.
IN SHORT GENTLEMEN--MS. MODOK DOES AS SHE DESIRES.
BUT WHAT IS IT THAT KATE DESIRES?
I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT OBVIOUS, DR. BANNER.
OUR THOUGHTS HAVE TOUCHED, MS. MODOK'S AND MINE.
WE DESIRE EACH OTHER, FOR NO OTHER INTELLIGENCE EXISTS ON EARTH--
--THAT CAN SATISFY OUR YEARNINGS FOR A MATCH OF THE MIND!
15

AS THE HULK STANDS STUNNED, TWO INCREDIBLE INTELLECTS TURN FROM THE MINOR ANNOYANCES AROUND THEM...
...AND REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER WITH BEAMS OF PUREST THOUGHT.
YES, WE ARE THE SAME!
WE ARE ONE!
THAT'S NOT KATE TALKING! IT CAN'T BE!
'COURSE IT AIN'T. DIDN'T YOU HEAR? YOUR LADY'S GONE!
AN' IN HER PLACE, WE GOT THAT...THING! TWO TERRORS INSTEAD OF ONE! MODOK ...AND HIS MATE!
MATE?
NO! NO! NO!
THE HULK'S SCREAM REVERBERATES LIKE THUNDER.
16

SUCH IS THE DIN THAT IT DISTRACTS THE LOVERS FROM THEIR CLOSE COMMUNION.
IF THERE BE ANY MAN WHO OBJECTS TO THIS UNION OF TWO MINDS--
--LET HIM STAND FORTH NOW OR FOREVER HOLD HIS PEACE.
I OBJECT!
KATE WAYNESBORO HAS SOME RIGHTS IN THIS OBSCENE AFFAIR!
I DEMAND THAT HER MIND BE FREED --THAT SHE BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE HER OWN COURSE!
I HAVE CHOSEN. I WISH TO WED MODOK.
WHATEVER THAT CREATURE IS, SHE'S NOT KATHERINE WAYNESBORO,,,AND HAS NO RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR HER!
HAVE A CARE, DR. BANNER! OUR ALLIANCE WAS PREDICATED UPON YOUR SAVING KATHERINE WAYNESBORO--
--AND MY PREVENTING THE CREATION OF ANOTHER MODOK DESIGNED TO DESTROY MYSELF.
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED. KATE WAYNESBORO IS NO MORE. AND WHAT SHE HAS BECOME,,,
,,,IS MY BRIDE!
I'LL NOT HEAR HER REFERRED TO DISRESPECTFULLY!
17

GRAARGHH!
YOU WILL APOLOGIZE,,, ON YOUR KNEES!
AS BEAM AFTER BEAM LASHES THE GREEN GARGANTUA,,,
,,,SHE WHO HAD BEEN KATHERINE WAYNESBORO MERELY WATCHES.
DO YOU HEAR ME, HULK? ON YOUR KNEES!
THAT'S HOW HE HURT ME! GIVE IT UP, HULK! YOU CAN'T FIGHT HIM! HE'LL KILL YA!
WORSE, ABOMINATION. SHALL WE GIVE THE GOOD DR. BANNER A DEMONSTRATION?
NO! PLEASE DON'T HURT MEEEEEE!
ABOMINATION!
18

MODOK--STOP IT! IT'S ME YOUR QUARREL'S WITH! LEAVE THE ABOMINATION ALONE!
HURTS,,, HURTS SO BAD!
BUT DOCTOR, YOU AND THE ABOMINATION ARE SO ALIKE--CREATURES OF GAMMA RAYS BOTH,,,
,,,THAT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY SEEING A PREVIEW OF YOUR FATE!
SEARED BY THE GAMMA-GREEN GLOW, THE ABOMINATION SCREAMS,,,
,,,UNTIL ABLE TO SCREAM NO LONGER AS HIS ATOMS ARE SCATTERED TO THE WIND.
YOU,,, DESTROYED THE CREATURE!
HIS DEATH IS OF NO IMPORTANCE.
HE LIVED! ALL LIFE HAS VALUE!
SURELY YOU JEST. ON ALL EARTH, THE ONLY LIVES WORTH ANYTHING ARE OUR OWN.
19

NO! THAT IS TOO CRUEL AN EQUATION TO BEAR!
CRUEL? TO ASSIGN LESSER BEINGS TO THEIR PROPER PLACE? ARRGHH!
WOMAN-- YOU STRIKE AT ME?!
WE ARE NOT THE SAME. WE ARE DIF-FERENT!
THEN... MODOK IS ALONE AGAIN.
OHHHH!
SOMEHOW, MODOK'S CRUELTY AWAKENED SOME SMALL SPARK OF KATE SUB-MERGED DEEP WITHIN MS. MODOK!
CURSE YOU FOR TRICKING ME INTO BELIEVING THERE WAS ONE I COULD SHARE MY LONELINESS WITH!
NOW I'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM FROM KILLING HER--
--WHILE THAT SPARK FANS INTO A FLAME!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS I AM--
--BUT I DO KNOW I AM NOT LIKE YOU!
THEN YOU SHALL PERISH!
IF YOU'LL NOT BE MINE--THEN YOU SHALL NOT BE!
20

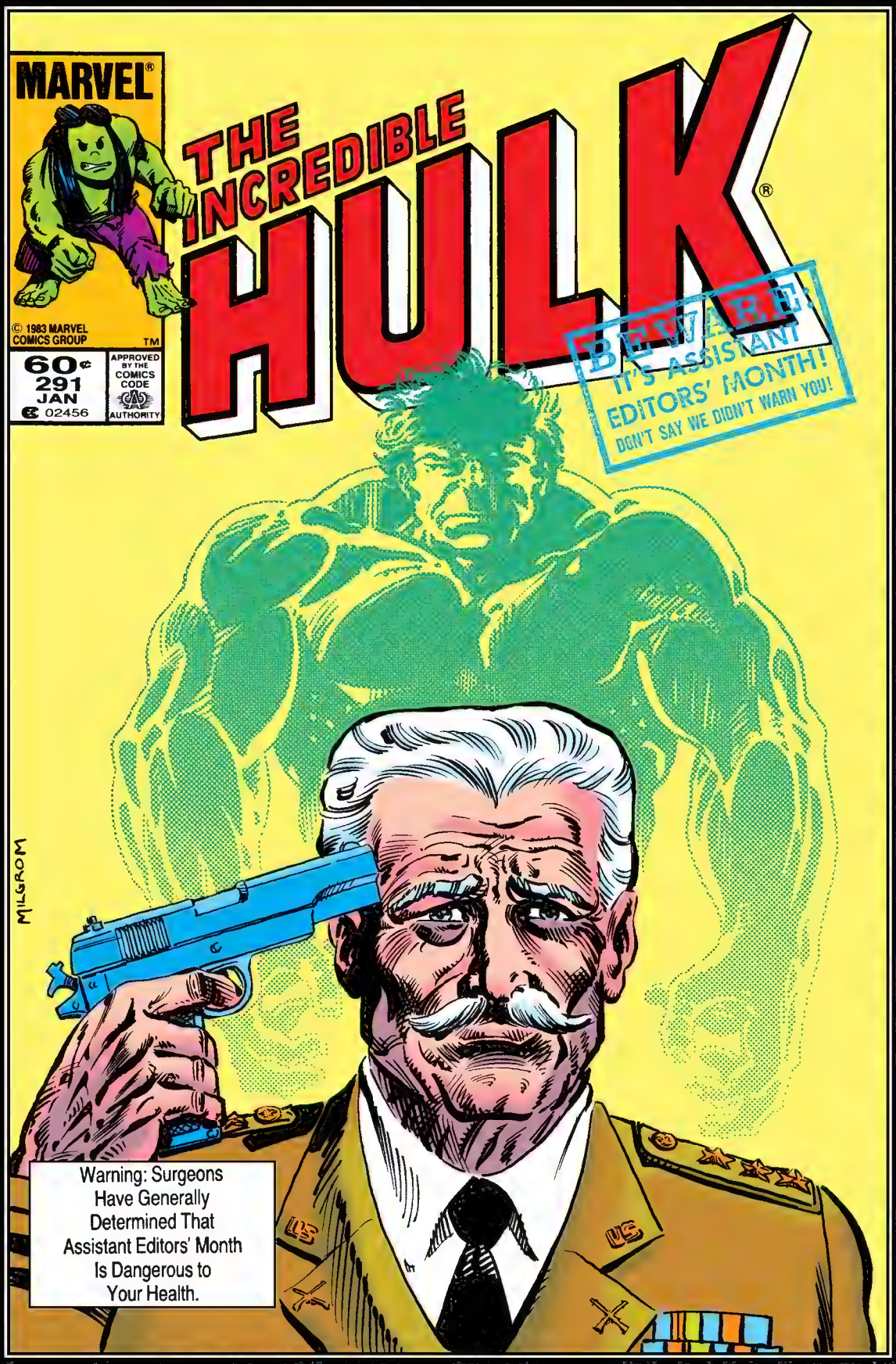
MS. MODOK HAS BEEN POSSESSED OF HER INCREDIBLE INTELLECT FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME.
IN THAT PERIOD, SHE HAS THROWN OFF THE DOMINATION OF A.I.M., AND RECOGNIZED MODOK FOR THE KILLER HE IS.
IT IS ALMOST AS IF THE MIND OF KATHERINE WAYNESBORO WERE FIGHTING TO REASSERT ITSELF.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT INNER STRUGGLE RENDERS HER VULNERABLE TO MODOK'S ASSAULT.
UNABLE TO RESIST HIS RUTHLESSNESS, MS. MODOK IS DRIVEN BACK ONTO THE ALTERATION PLATFORM.
THE FORCES THAT CREATED HER WORK THEIR WAY UPON HER AGAIN.
GET YOUR MIND OFF HER, MODOK!
ARGHH!
KATHUNK!
YOU ARE A FOOL, HULK!
AGAIN YOUR RAGE OVERCOMES YOUR CAPACITY TO REASON--
--OTHERWISE YOU WOULD SEE THE GREAT GIFT MODOK BESTOWS UPON YOU--
--BEFORE TAKING HIS LEAVE!
21

BLASTED BY MODOK'S MIND-BEAMS, THE ROOF OF THE A.I.M. STRONGHOLD CAVES IN ATOP THE HULK.
HIS WAY CLEAR, MODOK TAKES HIS LEAVE.
THAT HE COULD HAVE KILLED THE HULK AS HE DID THE ABOMINATION IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR...
...AND YET--HE DID NOT.
WHY?
WHY DID MODOK SPARE ME?
WAS HIS INSANE INTELLECT SATISFIED BY PROVING TO ME HOW POWERLESS I WAS TO SAVE--
--KATE?
22

IN THE BEAM OF LIGHT RISING FROM THE ALTERATION PLATFORM, A FEMALE FIGURE SEEMS TO FORM.
ALL TRACES OF MS. MODOK ARE ERASED.
KATHERINE WAYNESBORO HAS RETURNED.
HER ORDEAL IS OVER.
THIS IS MODOK'S DOING. HE DROVE MS. MODOK BACK INTO THE ALTERATION RAYS... AND REVERSED THE PROCESS.
BUT... WHY? I CAN'T IMAGINE MODOK AS CAPABLE OF MERCY!
BUT MAYBE KATE--AS MS. MODOK--STRUCK A CHORD IN HIM HE NEVER KNEW WAS THERE.
MAYBE, HAVING LOVED HER, HE COULDN'T DESTROY HER... SO INSTEAD HE GAVE HER BACK.
AND NOW THAT I HAVE HER... I'LL NEVER LET HER GO!

NEXT ISSUE: Carl Potts has gone gallivanting off to the San Diego Convention and left Assistant Editor Ann Nocenti in charge. So who picks this very month to have an identity crisis? The Hulk! And he comes up to the Marvel offices demanding help! What problem could be so serious that the Hulk could not handle it? Was Ann able to help our Green Goliath out of his dilemma? Be here in 30 days to find out!

This must be the month for self-reflection because there's another character who must take a hard look at his life. THUNDERBOLT ROSS – *the* career military man – committed treason against his country. If a man betrays all that he stands for, what's left? Next issue we go back into Ross's past to explore the forces that shaped him, and re-live his raging conflict with his life-long nemesis – the Hulk.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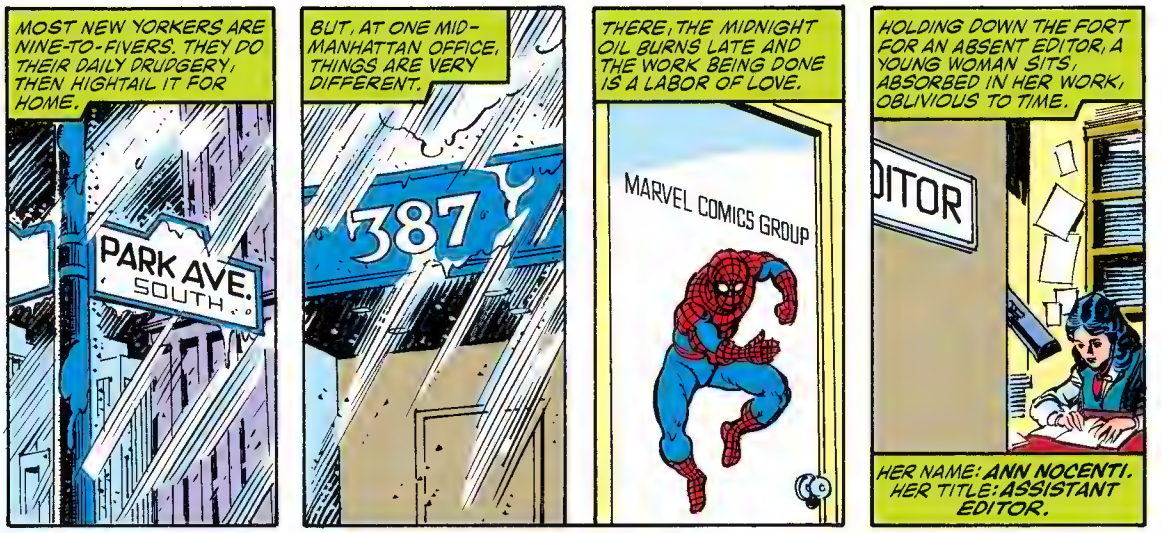
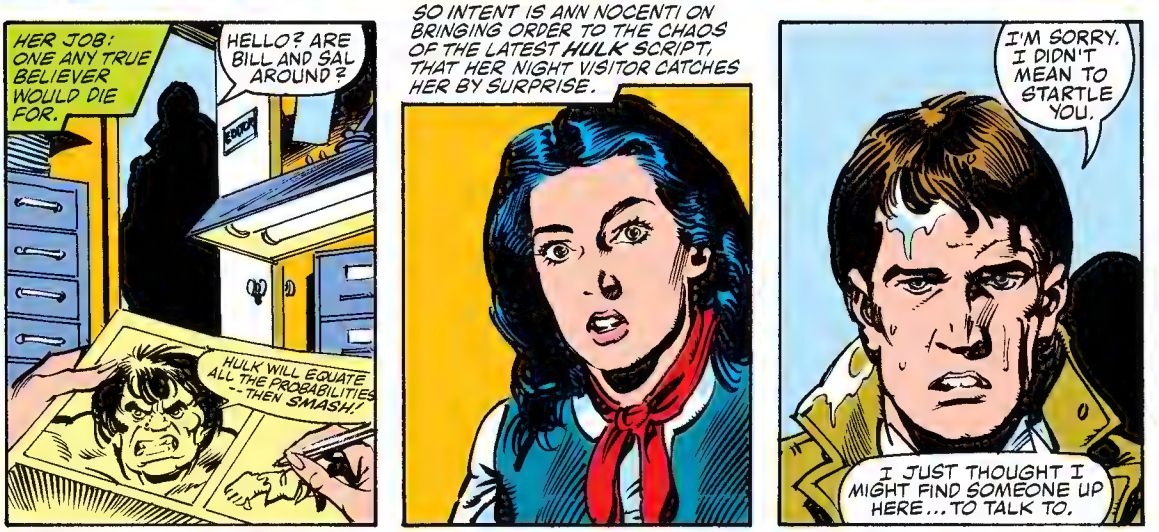
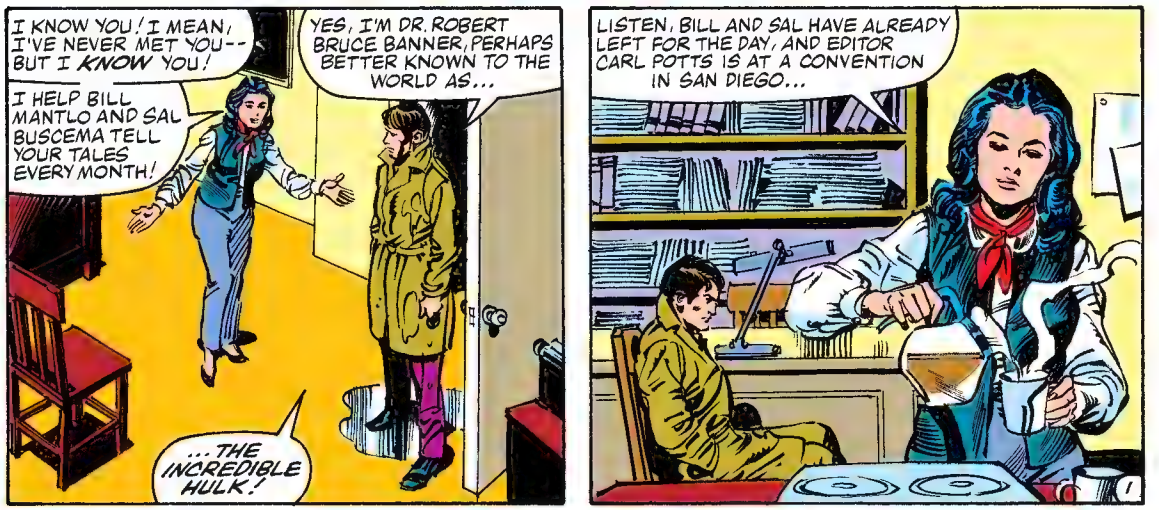
BEWARE
IT'S ASSISTANT EDITORS' MONTH!
DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU!
MILGROM
Warning: Surgeons Have Generally Determined That Assistant Editors' Month Is Dangerous to Your Health.


MOST NEW YORKERS ARE NINE-TO-FIVERS. THEY DO THEIR DAILY DRUDGERY, THEN HIGHTAIL IT FOR HOME.
PARK AVE. SOUTH
BUT, AT ONE MID-MANHATTAN OFFICE, THINGS ARE VERY DIFFERENT.
387
THERE, THE MIDNIGHT OIL BURNS LATE AND THE WORK BEING DONE IS A LABOR OF LOVE.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
HOLDING DOWN THE FORT FOR AN ABSENT EDITOR, A YOUNG WOMAN SITS, ABSORBED IN HER WORK, OBLIVIOUS TO TIME.
DITOR
HER NAME: ANN NOCENTI. HER TITLE: ASSISTANT EDITOR.


HER JOB: ONE ANY TRUE BELIEVER WOULD DIE FOR.
HELLO? ARE BILL AND SAL AROUND?
EDITOR
HULK WILL EQUATE ALL THE PROBABILITIES --THEN SMASH!
SO INTENT IS ANN NOCENTI ON BRINGING ORDER TO THE CHAOS OF THE LATEST HULK SCRIPT, THAT HER NIGHT VISITOR CATCHES HER BY SURPRISE.
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND SOMEONE UP HERE... TO TALK TO.


I KNOW YOU! I MEAN, I'VE NEVER MET YOU-- BUT I KNOW YOU!
I HELP BILL MANTLO AND SAL BUSCEMA TELL YOUR TALES EVERY MONTH!
YES, I'M DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER, PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS...
...THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
LISTEN, BILL AND SAL HAVE ALREADY LEFT FOR THE DAY, AND EDITOR CARL POTTS IS AT A CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO...

...BUT I'M A GOOD LISTENER. CARE TO TALK ABOUT IT?
WELL... I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHY I CAME HERE TONIGHT--
THING
LONG SHOT
HULK
--EXCEPT THAT, AS MY OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHERS, YOU GUYS SEEM TO KNOW ALMOST AS MUCH ABOUT ME AS I KNOW ABOUT MYSELF!
MAYBE MORE.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN! RIGHT NOW I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ME THAT INTIMATELY!
SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP ME MAKE THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION OF MY LIFE.
I MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO REVEAL THAT A RESPECTED MILITARY MAN IS A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY--
--OR SAY NOTHING AND THUS HELP HIDE THE CRIME OF A MAN WHO JUST TRIED TO KILL ME!
HEY, YOU JUST... DR. BANNER, FORGIVE ME... I-I'VE READ ABOUT YOUR INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATIONS...
BUT TO ACTUALLY WITNESS A MAN BECOME A MONSTER CAN BE MOST UNSETTLING?
UNSETTLING? SURE! BUT AMAZING... TERRIFIC... YOU ARE INCREDIBLE!
LONG SHOT
HULK
2

NO NEED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, MISS NOCENTI. I'VE SEEN FAR WORSE REACTIONS TO MY LITTLE TRANSFORMING ACT.
HATRED, TERROR... GRIEF.
IT SEEMS LIKE ALL I'VE EVER DONE IS CAUSE PAIN AND HEARTACHE TO THOSE AROUND ME.
WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE, DR. BANNER!
THAT'S NOT THE STORY I'VE HEARD!
AND, BELIEVE ME, I'VE READ THE HISTORY OF THE HULK FROM THE BEGINNING!
SURE, YOU'VE HAD IT TOUGH! YOU ENDURED A CURSE WHICH WOULD HAVE OVERCOME ANY OTHER MAN!
BUT YOU SURMOUNTED EVERY OBSTACLE FATE SET IN YOUR PATH! THE MONSTER BECAME A HERO!
AND, LOOK-- WE GET HUNDREDS OF LETTERS EVERY DAY REGARDING YOUR EXPLOITS!
MAIL
YOUR TRIUMPH, DR. BANNER, HAS INSPIRED MILLIONS! INCLUDING ME!
SO BALANCE AGAINST THAT WHAT GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS TRIED TO DO TO YOU--
-- HE RELEASED THE ABOMINATION.. SENT HIM TO KILL YOU! ROSS IS A TRAITOR!
HOW IS THAT YOUR FAULT?
ROSS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PATRIOT, MISS NOCENTI. IF HE'S HATED ME AND HUNTED ME--
-- IT'S BECAUSE HE'S WANTED TO SAFEGUARD HIS COUNTRY FROM THE RAVAGES OF A SAVAGE HULK!
3

DR. BANNER, GENERAL ROSS IS A SOLDIER! A SOLDIER'S JOB IS TO OBEY ORDERS! THAT'S IMPLICIT IN THE UNIFORM HE WEARS! ROSS CHOSE THAT ROLL WILLINGLY!
IT'S THAT UNIFORM THAT GIVES ROSS HIS IDENTITY!
BY MAKING A DECISION CONTRARY TO WHAT THAT UNIFORM REPRESENTS, ROSS HAS NOT ONLY BETRAYED HIS COUNTRY--
--HE'S BETRAYED HIMSELF! HE KNOWS HE'S A TRAITOR, WHETHER YOU REVEAL HIS TREASON OR NOT!
SO WHAT DO I DO?
BE TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE, DR. BANNER-- AS ROSS WAS FALSE TO HIMSELF! WEAR YOUR UNIFORM PROUDLY!
THE UNIFORM OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK, WHICH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE HAVE COME TO RESPECT--
--AND HONOR, AS THE MONSTER...
...WHO BECAME A MAN!
I... THANK YOU, MISS NOCENTI--ANN! YOU'VE BEEN GREAT! YOU'VE HELPED ME TO ARRIVE AT A MOST DIFFICULT DECISION!
WHAT WILL YOU DO... ABOUT GENERAL ROSS, I MEAN?
DO? NOTHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT! I CAN LIVE WITH WHO I AM-- WHAT I AM--NOW.
IT TOOK A LONG TIME, BUT AT LAST I'M NO LONGER AFRAID OR ASHAMED TO ADOPT THE "UNIFORM" OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
NOW ROSS HAS TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH HIMSELF. IT'S UP TO HIM WHETHER HE CAN CONTINUE HIS MILITARY CAREER KNOWING HE'S BETRAYED HIS COUNTRY.
EDITOR
I CAN'T-- I WON'T-- MAKE THAT DECISION FOR HIM!
GOOD NIGHT, ANN.
GOOD LUCK, DR. BANNER.
4

AND, SOMEWHERE IN THE COLD CONFINES OF THE PENTAGON, A MILITARY MAN SITS PARALYZED BY HIS OWN SHAME.
OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE!
BILL MANTLO WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA & GERRY TALAOC ARTISTS
JIM NOVAK LETTERER
BOB SHAREN COLORIST
ANN NOCENTI EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER CHIEF
MEMO
GENERAL THADDEUS ROSS
5

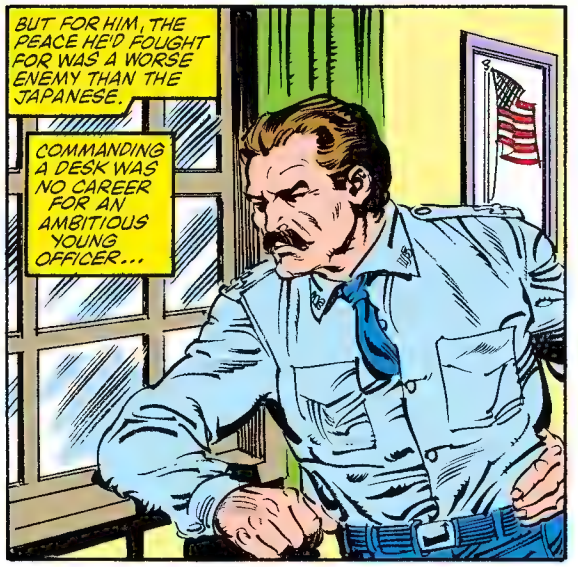
I... AM A TRAITOR!
THAT THOUGHT CUTS TO THE VERY FIBER OF THIS MAN'S BEING.
IT MAKES A MOCKERY OF HIS LIFE, ASHES OF HIS CAREER.
IT MAKES HIM UNABLE TO CONTINUE SERVING HIS COUNTRY, UNFIT FOR COMMAND...
... AND, IN HIS OWN EYES, UNWORTHY OF LIFE.
HE IS GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS ... AND, YES, HE IS A TRAITOR.
THIS IS HIS STORY...
SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO YOUNG THADDEUS ROSS WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY WITH A PROUD MILITARY TRADITION...
GRANDAD WAS A HERO IN THE UNION ARMY UNDER SHERMAN.
DAD ROSE TO THE RANK OF GENERAL IN THE TRENCHES OF THE ARGONNE.
AS A BABY, THADDEUS WAS SOOTHED TO SLEEP WITH TALES OF VALOR.
IL WAR BATTLES
WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE
CAESAR THE GALLI WARS
AS A BOY, HE IMMERSED HIMSELF IN MILITARY HISTORY.
6

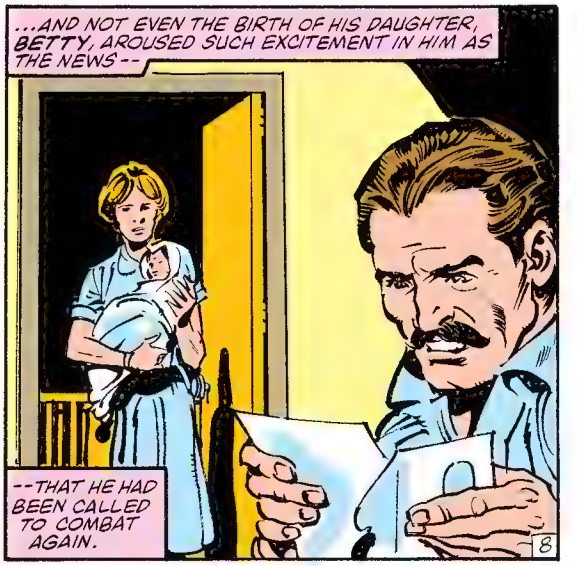
AS A YOUNG MAN, HE ENLISTED...
...AND GRADUATED FIRST AMONG HIS CLASS.
IT WAS ONLY NATURAL.
AND, PERHAPS, IN THE CLOISTERED WORLD OF A MILITARY CADET, IT WAS ALSO NATURAL THAT THADDEUS SHOULD MEET...
...AND MARRY THE CAPTAIN'S PRETTY DAUGHTER, KAREN LEE.
ADVANCEMENT CAME QUICKLY TO THE PROMISING YOUNG SOLDIER, BUT THEY WERE PEACETIME PROMOTIONS.
ROSS WISHED TO PROVE HIMSELF, AS HIS ANCESTORS HAD, IN THE FIRES OF WAR.
IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE GOT HIS WISH.
DAILY BUGLE
WAR!
JAPAN ATTACKS PEARL HARBOR!
7

ROSS ENTERED THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC AS A CAPTAIN.
THE TROOPS GAVE HIM A NICKNAME--FOR AT THE HEAD OF HIS MEN, HE STRUCK LIKE A THUNDERBOLT.

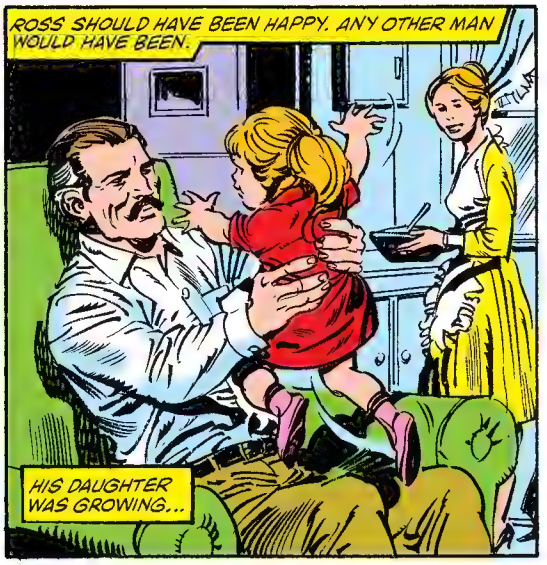
HE WAS ALWAYS WHERE THE BATTLE WAS THE HOTTEST, EARNED A REPUTATION FOR VALOR--

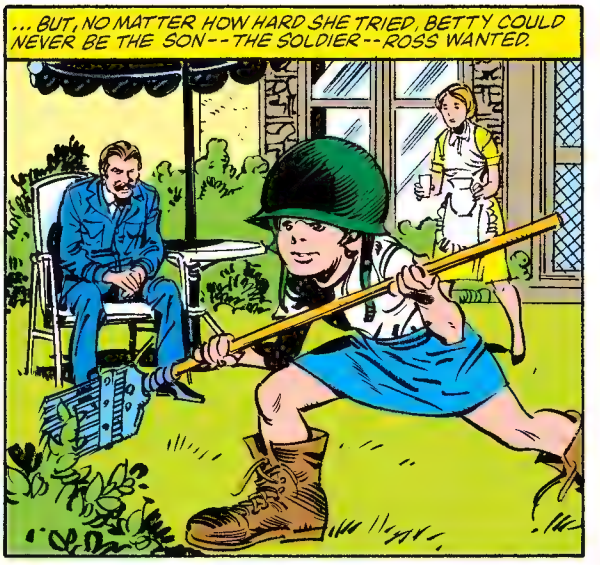
--AND LEFT THE WAR AS A MAJOR.

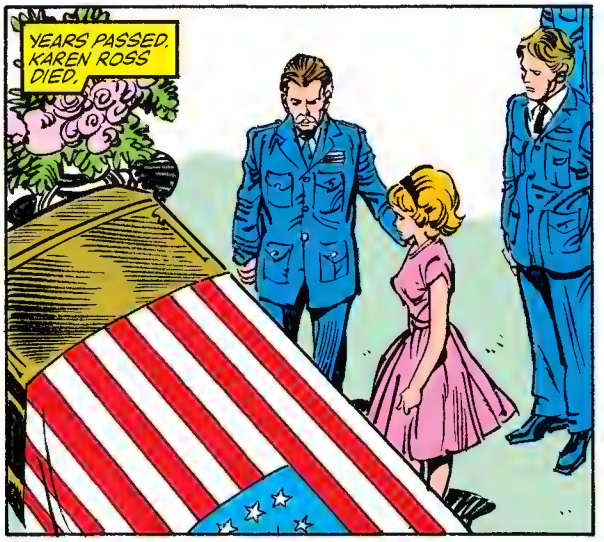

BUT FOR HIM, THE PEACE HE'D FOUGHT FOR WAS A WORSE ENEMY THAN THE JAPANESE.
COMMANDING A DESK WAS NO CAREER FOR AN AMBITIOUS YOUNG OFFICER...

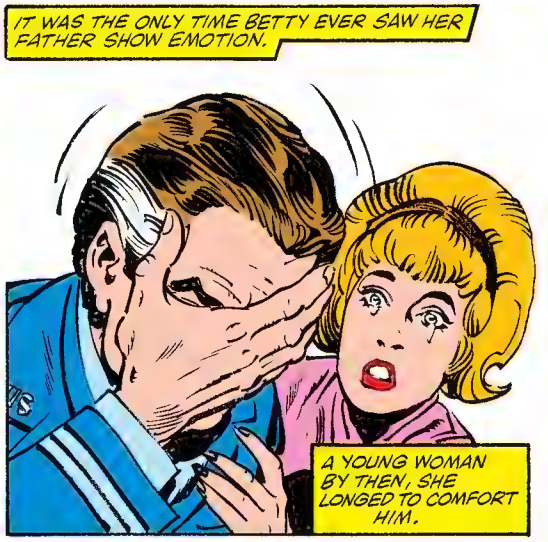

...AND NOT EVEN THE BIRTH OF HIS DAUGHTER, BETTY, AROUSED SUCH EXCITEMENT IN HIM AS THE NEWS--
--THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED TO COMBAT AGAIN.

KOREA WAS A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR -- A POLICE ACTION WHERE THE POLITICIANS CALLED THE SHOTS.
BUT "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS DIDN'T CARE.
TO HIM, WAR WAS WAR...
...AND ONLY IN COMBAT DID HE TRULY FEEL ALIVE.
MORE MEDALS.
THE COLONEL BECAME A GENERAL.
NEW YORK TIMES
CEASE FIRE
DEMILITARIZED ZONE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA
BUT VICTORY MEANT A RETURN TO THE DESK.
9


ROSS SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY. ANY OTHER MAN WOULD HAVE BEEN.
HIS DAUGHTER WAS GROWING...

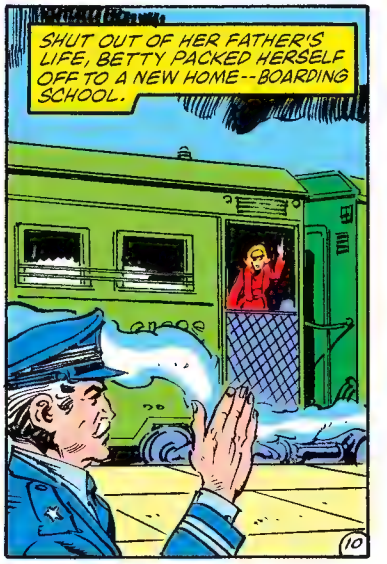

... BUT, NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIED, BETTY COULD NEVER BE THE SON--THE SOLDIER--ROSS WANTED.

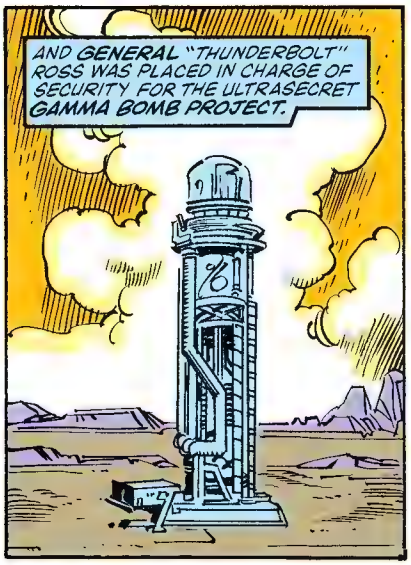

YEARS PASSED. KAREN ROSS DIED.

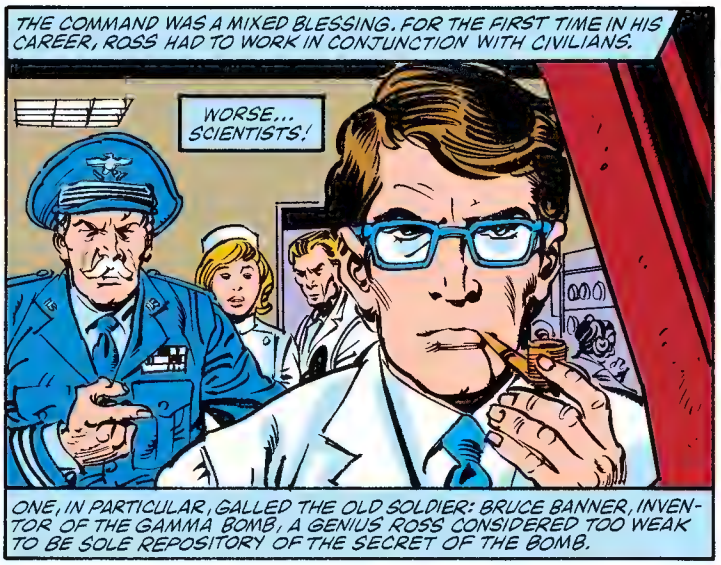

IT WAS THE ONLY TIME BETTY EVER SAW HER FATHER SHOW EMOTION.
A YOUNG WOMAN BY THEN, SHE LONGED TO COMFORT HIM.

INSTEAD, HE ORDERED HER AWAY.
"WHY?" SHE ASKED HIM.

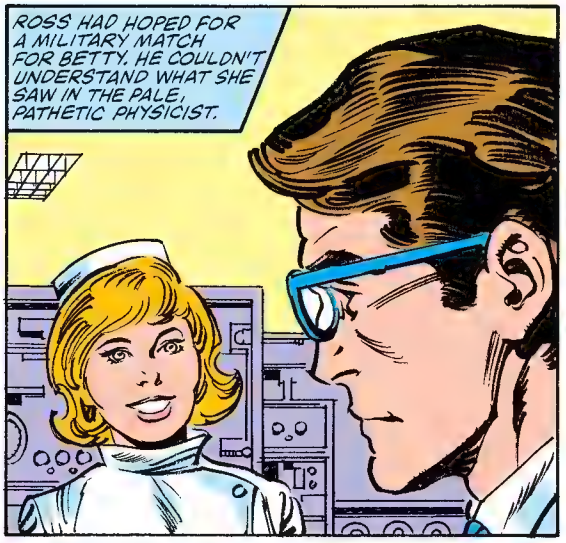
"A MILITARY BASE IS NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN," HE ANSWERED.
"AFTER ALL, IF I'D LOVED KAREN AS MUCH AS I DID THE MILITARY, SHE MIGHT BE ALIVE TODAY."

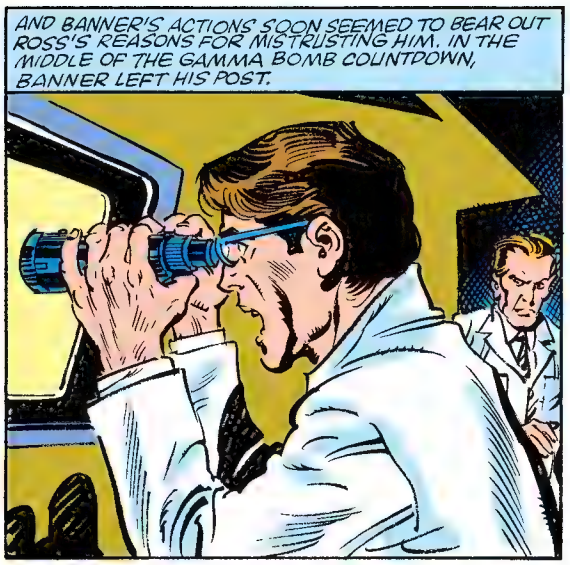

SHUT OUT OF HER FATHER'S LIFE, BETTY PACKED HERSELF OFF TO A NEW HOME--BOARDING SCHOOL.
10


AND GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF SECURITY FOR THE ULTRASECRET GAMMA BOMB PROJECT.


THE COMMAND WAS A MIXED BLESSING. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CAREER, ROSS HAD TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH CIVILIANS.
WORSE... SCIENTISTS!
ONE, IN PARTICULAR, GALLED THE OLD SOLDIER: BRUCE BANNER, INVENTOR OF THE GAMMA BOMB, A GENIUS ROSS CONSIDERED TOO WEAK TO BE SOLE REPOSITORY OF THE SECRET OF THE BOMB.

ROSS'S DISLIKE FOR BANNER WAS INTENSIFIED...
...WHEN IT APPEARED HIS DAUGHTER BETTY MIGHT BE ATTRACTED TO THE MAN.


ROSS HAD HOPED FOR A MILITARY MATCH FOR BETTY. HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE SAW IN THE PALE, PATHETIC PHYSICIST.


AND BANNER'S ACTIONS SOON SEEMED TO BEAR OUT ROSS'S REASONS FOR MISTRUSTING HIM. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAMMA BOMB COUNTDOWN, BANNER LEFT HIS POST.

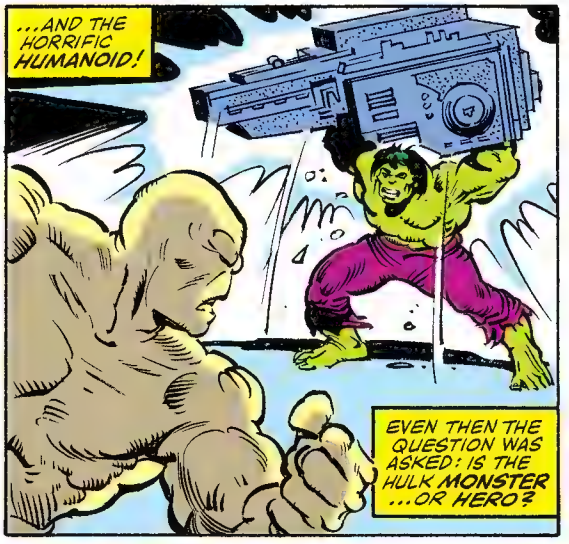
THE NATION'S FOREMOST PHYSICIST ENDANGERED HIMSELF TO SAVE WHAT ROSS THOUGHT WAS A WITLESS TEENAGER WHO'D SNUCK ONTO THE BLAST SITE ON A DARE.
11

IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT BANNER DIDN'T DIE IN THE BLAST.
AND IT WAS A NIGHTMARE THAT, IN THE BOMB'S GAMMA GLOW, THE HULK WAS BORN.
THE HULK.
HOW QUICKLY THAT BRUTAL BEHEMOTH BECAME AN ANATHEMA TO ROSS'S CAREER.
190
THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, THEY CALLED HIM.
A MURDEROUS MONSTER WAS MORE LIKE IT.
BANNER WAS CONNECTED WITH THE HULK SOMEHOW.
ROSS WAS SURE OF IT.
FOR BETTY'S SAKE, HE SET OUT TO PROVE HIS SUSPICIONS.
PROOF SEEMED ELUSIVE. THOUGH BANNER AND THE HULK WERE NEVER SEEN TOGETHER, THERE WAS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE THAT BANNER CONTROLLED THE MONSTER.
THEN ROSS DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS ON THE WRONG TRACK. BANNER DIDN'T CONTROL THE HULK.
HE WAS THE HULK!
HIS DAUGHTER LOVED THE VERY MONSTER ROSS HAD SWORN TO SLAY!
12

THE TRUTH ONLY STRENGTHENED BETTY'S RESOLVE TO HELP BANNER. HOPING TO WOO HER AWAY FROM A CREATURE WHO COULD ONLY CAUSE HER PAIN...
...ROSS INTRODUCED HER TO MAJOR GLENN TALBOT, A "REAL MILITARY MAN."

THEN ROSS CONCENTRATED ON HUNTING DOWN AND DESTROYING THE HULK. BUT THE GREEN GOLIATH ALWAYS SEEMED TO STAND BETWEEN AMERICA AND SUCH SUPERHUMAN ENEMIES...
...AS THE LETHAL LEADER...

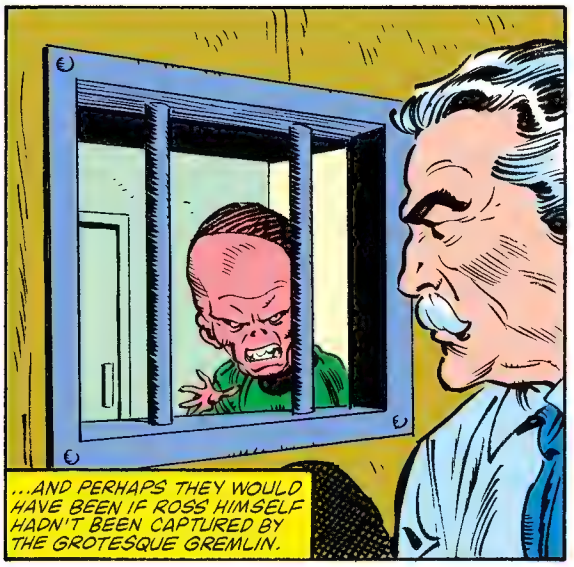
...THE AWESOME ABOMINATION...


...AND THE HORRIFIC HUMANOID!
EVEN THEN THE QUESTION WAS ASKED: IS THE HULK MONSTER ...OR HERO?

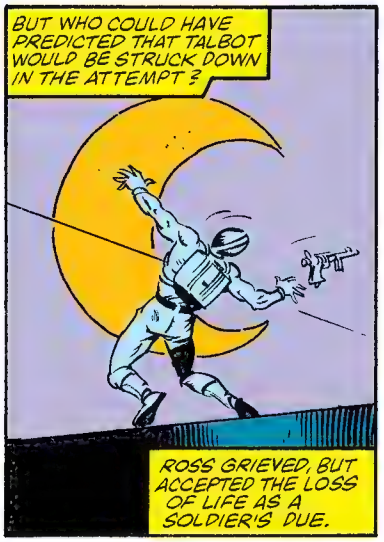
THE PRESIDENT LEFT THAT TO ROSS'S DISCRETION.
THE HULK WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO EVER BE GRANTED AMNESTY, ROSS DECIDED.
THE PATTERN WAS SET...

...BUT JUST AS SOON BROKEN, AT THE HEIGHT OF ROSS'S HULK-HUNTING--
--BANNER, THE MAN, GAINED CONTROL OVER THE HULK.
13

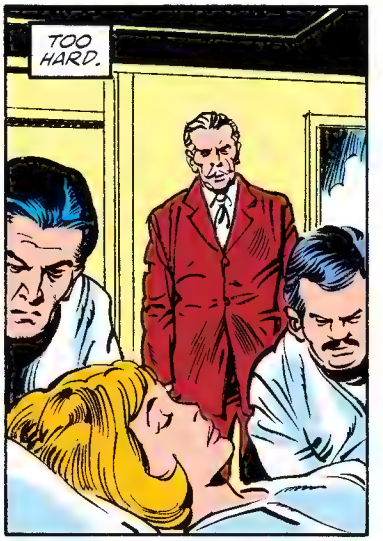
ROSS COULDN'T BELIEVE IT... DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.
BANNER'S RETURN TO NORMALCY REMOVED ANY BARRIERS BETWEEN HE AND BETTY.
WHAT THE GENERAL HAD FEARED HAD COME TO PASS.
DAILY BUGLE
BRUCE BANNER TO MARRY
DAUGHTER OF ARMY GENERAL ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT TO MAN WHO WAS HULK
GRUDGINGLY, THE OLD SOLDIER GAVE HIS CONSENT...
...AND HIS BLESSINGS.
THEN, ON HIS DAUGHTER'S WEDDING DAY -- THE HULK BROKE LOOSE AGAIN!
THAT IT WAS THE LEADER'S DOING DIDN'T MATTER.
THE MAN HAD BECOME A MONSTER ONCE MORE!
THE TRAGEDY SHOCKED BETTY... AND HARDENED ROSS'S OPINION OF THE HULK. WHETHER BRUCE BANNER COEXISTED WITH THE MONSTER OR NOT...
...HE WAS A MENACE, AND NEITHER ROSS NOR AMERICA COULD REST EASY 'TIL THAT MENACE WAS DESTROYED.
TO THAT END, HULKBUSTER BASE WAS BUILT.
TIME CHANGED THE FEELINGS WHICH ROSS WAS NEVER ABLE TO COMMAND TO CHANGE -- REALIZING BRUCE BANNER WAS LOST TO HER...
...BETTY ROSS MARRIED GLENN TALBOT.
ROSS WANTED TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE HAPPY...
14


...AND PERHAPS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IF ROSS HIMSELF HADN'T BEEN CAPTURED BY THE GROTESQUE GREMLIN.

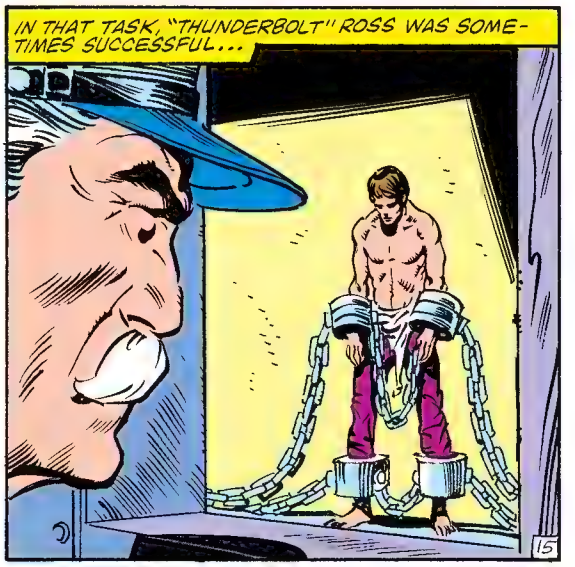
IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT MAJOR TALBOT SHOULD VOLUNTEER TO FREE HIS FATHER-IN-LAW.

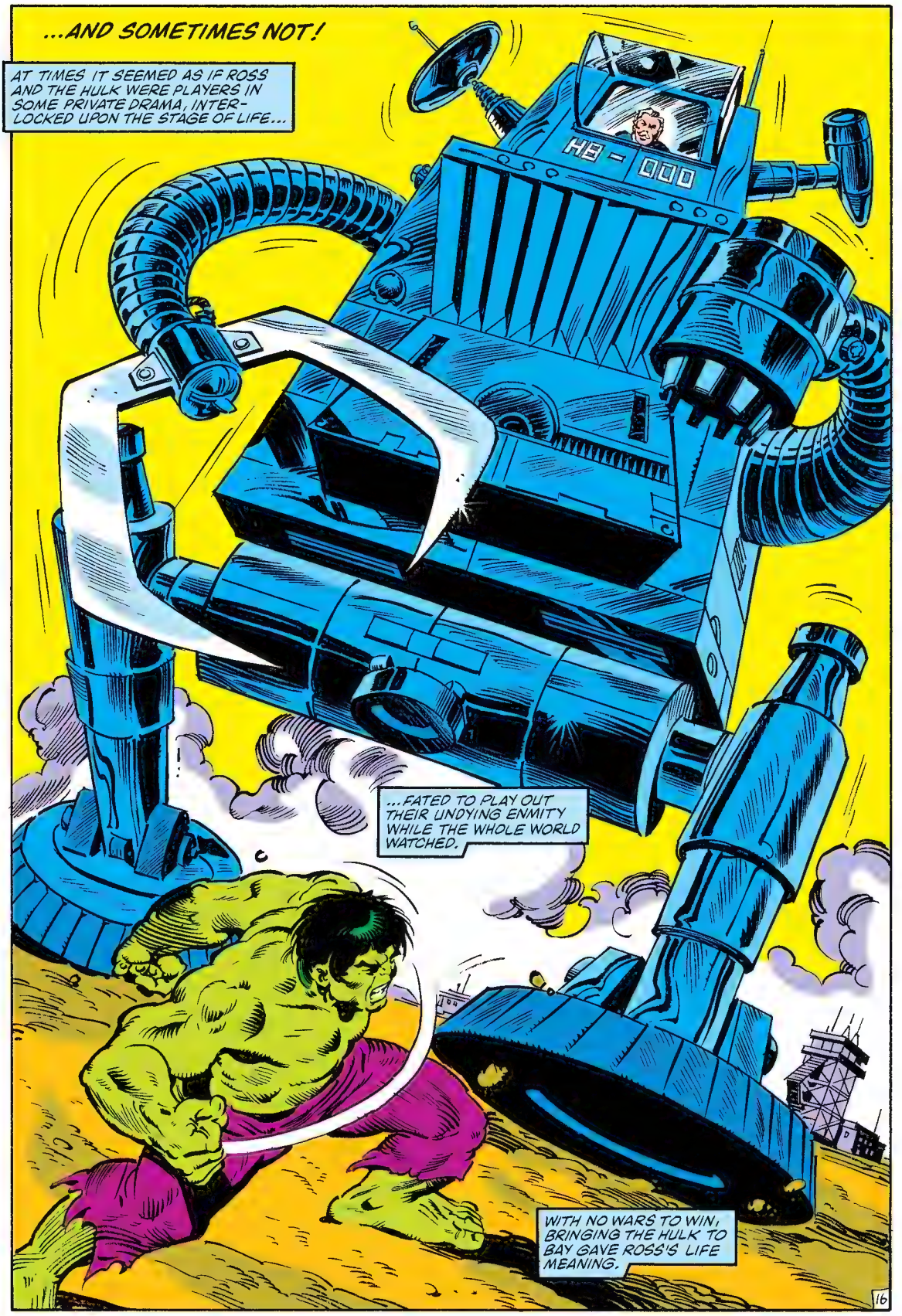

BUT WHO COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT TALBOT WOULD BE STRUCK DOWN IN THE ATTEMPT?
ROSS GRIEVED, BUT ACCEPTED THE LOSS OF LIFE AS A SOLDIER'S DUE.

BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO CONVEY THAT SPARTAN STOICISM TO BETTY. SHE TOOK THE NEWS OF HER HUSBAND'S DEATH HARD.

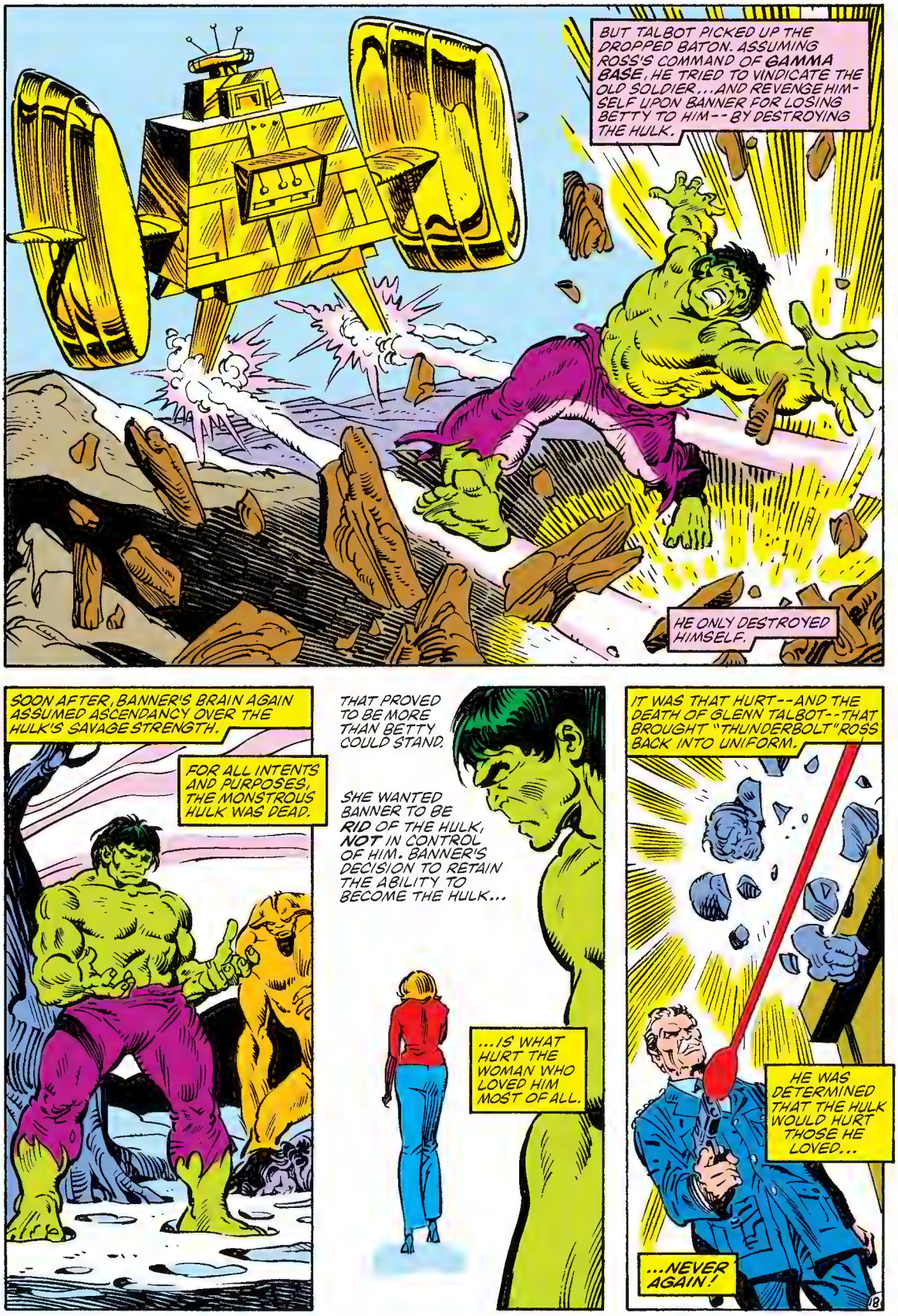

TOO HARD.

REJECTED BY HIS DAUGHTER, THE GENERAL SOUGHT RELEASE IN ACTION.
ACTION MEANT HUNTING AND HOUNDING THE HULK.

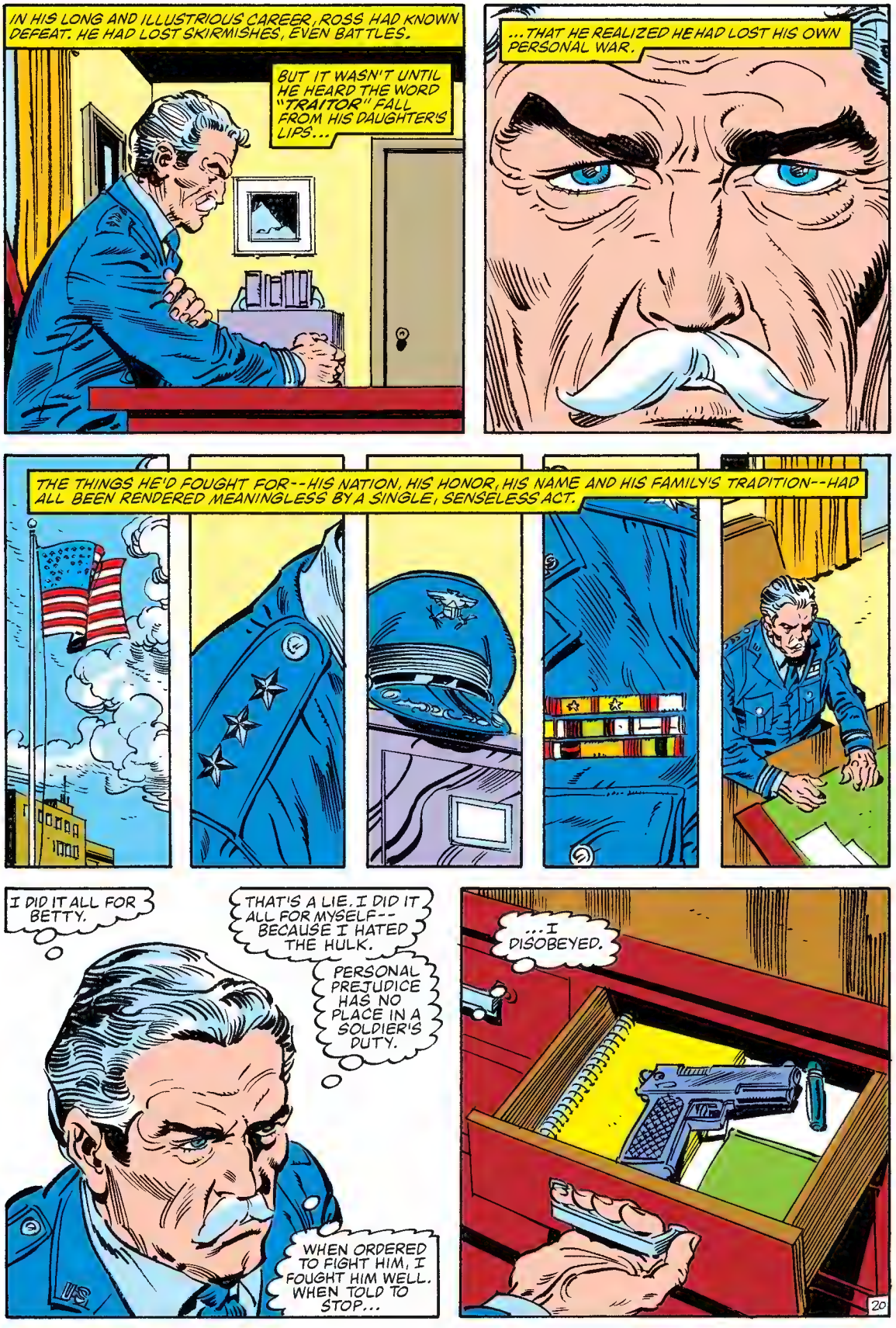

IN THAT TASK, "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS WAS SOMETIMES SUCCESSFUL...
15


...AND SOMETIMES NOT!
AT TIMES IT SEEMED AS IF ROSS AND THE HULK WERE PLAYERS IN SOME PRIVATE DRAMA, INTER-LOCKED UPON THE STAGE OF LIFE...
...FATED TO PLAY OUT THEIR UNDYING ENMITY WHILE THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHED.
WITH NO WARS TO WIN, BRINGING THE HULK TO BAY GAVE ROSS'S LIFE MEANING.
16

IMAGINE THE OLD SOLDIER'S HORROR, THEN, WHEN IT WAS REVEALED THAT HIS SON-IN-LAW YET LIVED...
...A MINDLESS VICTIM OF THE GREMLIN'S GHOULISH GAMES--
--AND THAT ONLY THE HULK COULD SAVE GLENN TALBOT!
THE HULK WAS REDUCED TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE AND BEAMED INTO TALBOT'S BRAIN.
THERE, IN A SAVAGE BATTLE, HE DESTROYED THE CREATURES THAT INHABITED TALBOT'S PSYCHE... AND RESTORED HIS RIVAL TO NORMAL.
TALBOT WAS RESTORED. HIS MARRIAGE, HOWEVER, WAS IRREPARABLE.
BETTY REALIZED SHE HAD NEVER STOPPED LOVING BRUCE BANNER...
...AND SWORE TO HELP HIM FIND A CURE FOR THE CURSE OF BEING THE HULK.
ROSS, SENSING AT LAST THAT HE WAS WRONG ABOUT SO MANY THINGS, RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION.
IT SEEMED HIS WAY OF SOLDIERING WAS AT AN END.
17

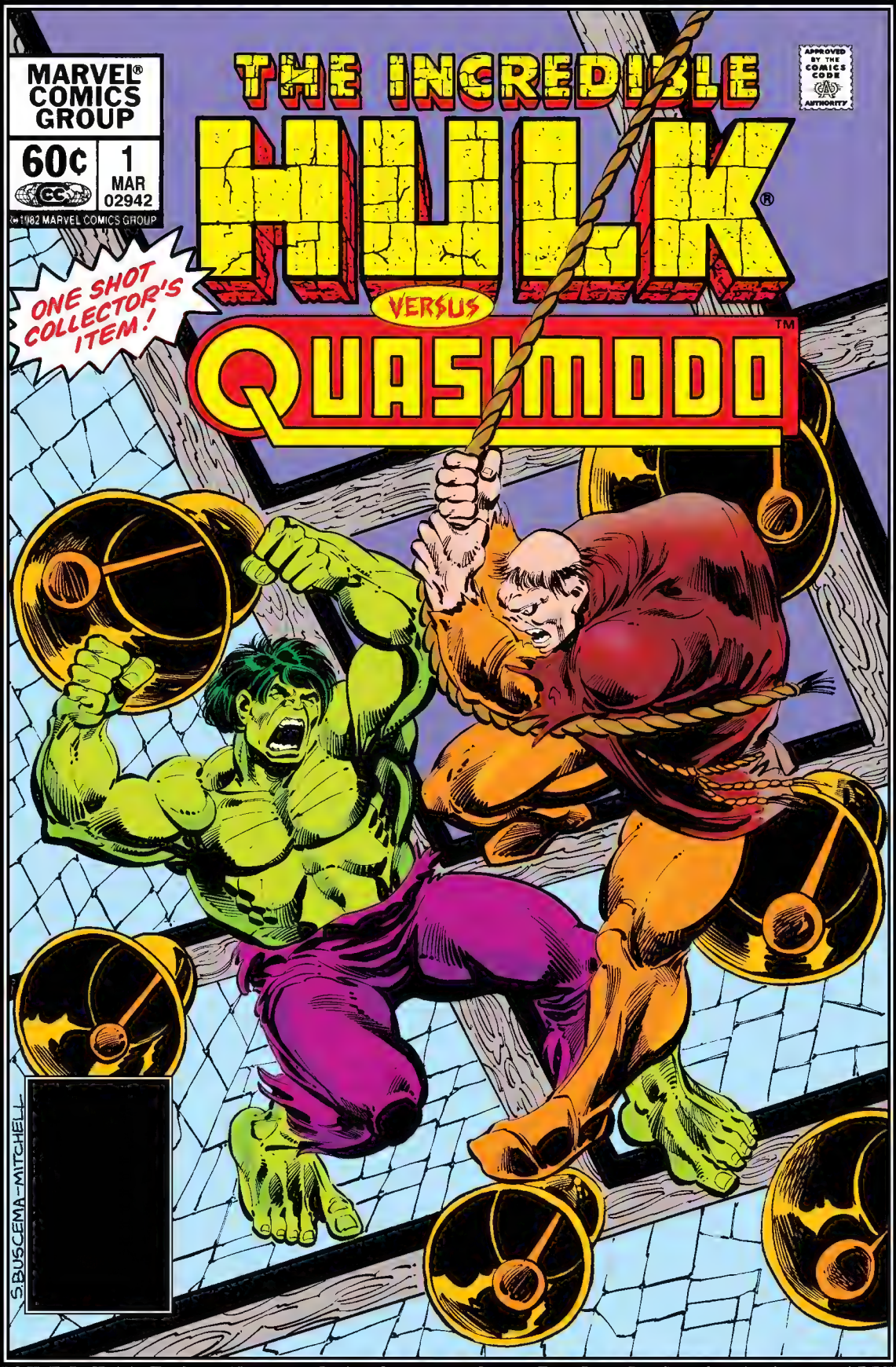

BUT TALBOT PICKED UP THE DROPPED BATON. ASSUMING ROSS'S COMMAND OF GAMMA BASE, HE TRIED TO VINDICATE THE OLD SOLDIER...AND REVENGE HIMSELF UPON BANNER FOR LOSING BETTY TO HIM--BY DESTROYING THE HULK.
HE ONLY DESTROYED HIMSELF.
SOON AFTER, BANNER'S BRAIN AGAIN ASSUMED ASCENDANCY OVER THE HULK'S SAVAGE STRENGTH.
FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THE MONSTROUS HULK WAS DEAD.
THAT PROVED TO BE MORE THAN BETTY COULD STAND.
SHE WANTED BANNER TO BE RID OF THE HULK, NOT IN CONTROL OF HIM. BANNER'S DECISION TO RETAIN THE ABILITY TO BECOME THE HULK...
...IS WHAT HURT THE WOMAN WHO LOVED HIM MOST OF ALL.
IT WAS THAT HURT--AND THE DEATH OF GLENN TALBOT--THAT BROUGHT "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS BACK INTO UNIFORM.
HE WAS DETERMINED THAT THE HULK WOULD HURT THOSE HE LOVED...
...NEVER AGAIN!

BUT AGAIN CIVILIANS INTERFERED.
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST SUPER-BEINGS RALLIED FOR THIS NEW, "HEROIC" HULK.
A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON WAS GRANTED...NOT SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL'S DISCRETION.
WERE THEY ALL BLIND?
COULDN'T THEY SEE THAT THE HULK WOULD ALWAYS BE A MENACE--ALWAYS BE A MONSTER?
WELL, IF THEY WERE BLIND--ROSS'S EYES WERE OPEN. HE KNEW THE HULK WOULD ONE DAY TURN UPON THE VERY NATION THAT ACCLAIMED HIM.
DETERMINED TO PREVENT THAT EVENTUALITY--
--HE ALLOWED MODOK TO FREE THE ABOMINATION FROM HIS COMMAND.
THEIR ARRANGEMENT? MODOK COULD HAVE THE ABOMINATION TO DESTROY HIS ENEMIES, IF THE CREATURE WOULD FIRST BE SENT TO SLAY THE HULK.
IN THE FACE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PARDON, ROSS KNEW HIS ACT WAS TREASONOUS.
THE BARGAIN WAS STRUCK.
ONLY THE ABOMINATION--TERRIFIED OF THE HULK'S POWER--FAILED. THE PLAN WAS REVEALED, NOT ONLY TO ITS INTENDED VICTIM...
...BUT TO ROSS'S DAUGHTER, BETTY, AS WELL.
19


IN HIS LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER, ROSS HAD KNOWN DEFEAT. HE HAD LOST SKIRMISHES, EVEN BATTLES.
BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL HE HEARD THE WORD "TRAITOR" FALL FROM HIS DAUGHTER'S LIPS...
...THAT HE REALIZED HE HAD LOST HIS OWN PERSONAL WAR.
THE THINGS HE'D FOUGHT FOR--HIS NATION, HIS HONOR, HIS NAME AND HIS FAMILY'S TRADITION--HAD ALL BEEN RENDERED MEANINGLESS BY A SINGLE, SENSELESS ACT.
I DID IT ALL FOR BETTY.
THAT'S A LIE. I DID IT ALL FOR MYSELF--BECAUSE I HATED THE HULK.
PERSONAL PREJUDICE HAS NO PLACE IN A SOLDIER'S DUTY.
WHEN ORDERED TO FIGHT HIM, I FOUGHT HIM WELL. WHEN TOLD TO STOP...
...I DISOBEYED.
20

I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME FOR MY SHAME--
--BUT MYSELF.
NO. THAT WAY'S TOO EASY... TOO HONORABLE.
I'M A SOLDIER! GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS!
I NO LONGER DESERVE THIS MEDAL, NOR THIS UNIFORM.
IF I STRIP MYSELF OF THESE SYMBOLS, I STRIP MY LIFE OF ALL MEANING.
BUT I'VE NEVER RUN FROM DEFEAT IN MY LIFE!
AND I WON'T START NOW--
--EVEN IF LEARNING TO LIVE WITH MY DISGRACE--
--IS THE TOUGHEST WAR--
--THIS OLD SOLDIER WILL EVER HAVE TO FIGHT!
21

ONCE MORE, NEW YORK...
THERE GOES ONE OF THE MOST TORTURED CHARACTERS IN THE CHRONICLES OF COMICDOM.
EACH CRISIS OF HIS THAT WE PORTRAY SEEMS MORE INTENSE THAN THE LAST.
GODSPEED, DR. BANNER, YOU'VE BEEN HUNTED AND HARRIED--DRIVEN BY YOUR OWN INNER DEMON...
...FOR MORE YEARS THAN ANY MAN SHOULD HAVE TO BEAR.
I HOPE AT LAST YOU FIND THE PEACE YOU'VE SOUGHT.
A PEACE NOW FOREVER DENIED YOUR GREATEST FOE.
NEXT ISH: A TALE OF NIGHTMARE AND PATHOS: DRAGON-NIGHT!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60¢
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02942
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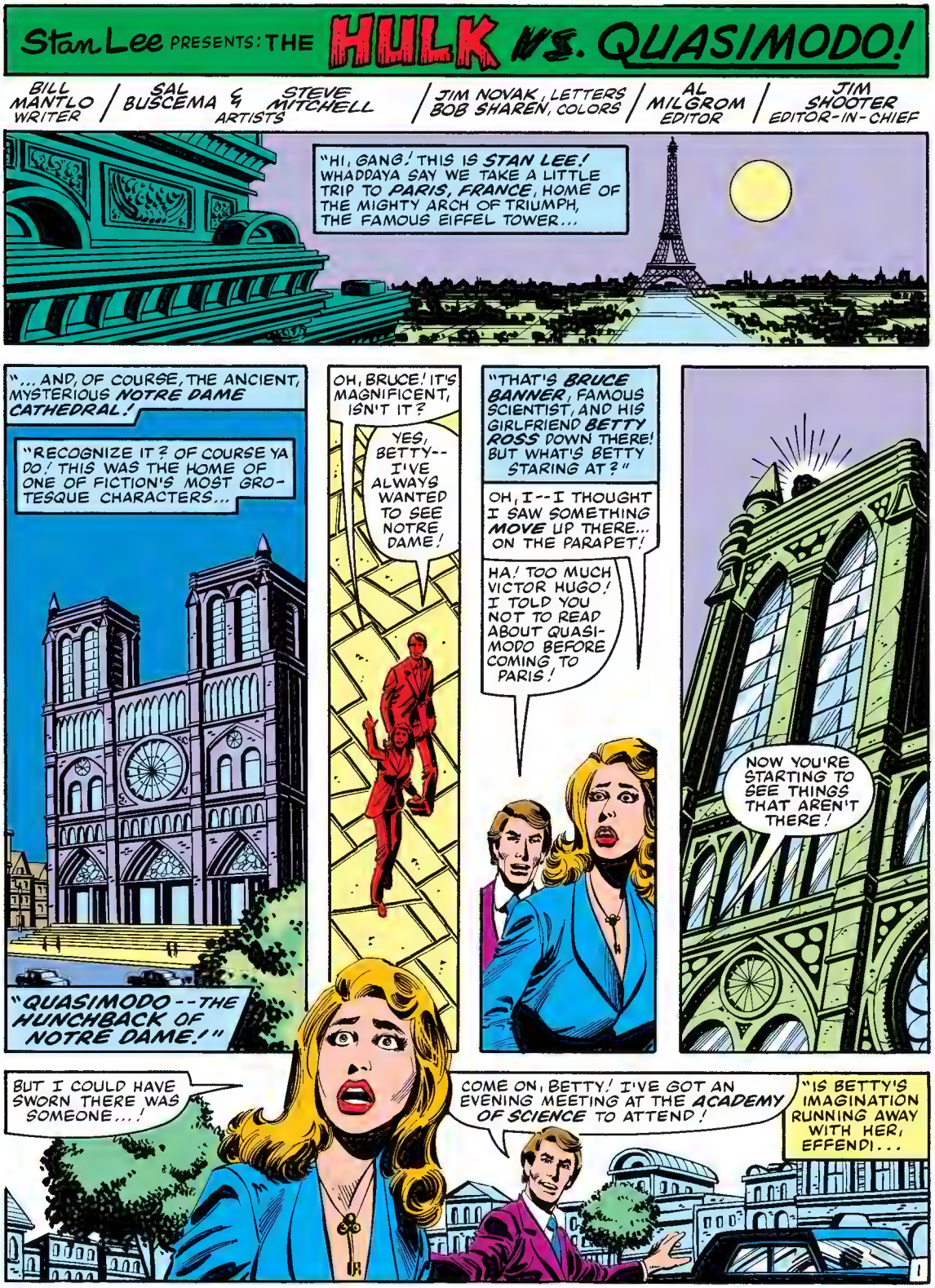
ONE SHOT COLLECTOR'S ITEM!
THE INCREDIBLE HULK®
VERSUS
QUASIMODO™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
S.BUSCEMA-MITCHELL

EDITORI-AL
PRESENTS:
THE INCREDIB-AL EDITOR!
GRRR! WHERE IS AL'S BLUE PENCIL?
THIS IS SPECIAL ISSUE OF HULK COMIC. THIS COMIC BASED ON HULK CARTOON SHOW.
AL LIKES HULK COMIC BASED ON CARTOON SHOW.
BUT AL IS CONFUSED! HULK ON CARTOON SHOW TALKS DIFFERENT FROM HULK IN REGULAR HULK COMIC BOOK.
HULK IN REGULAR COMIC NOW HAS BRUCE BANNER BRAIN.
HIM PLENTY SMART, KEMO SABE.
HULK IN THIS COMIC--LIKE CARTOON SHOW--IS DUMB...
...BUT STRONG!
THAT WAY CARTOON HULK AND COMIC HULK ARE THE SAME. BOTH ARE STRONG!
AL IS STRONG, TOO! STRONGEST ONE THERE IS! AND THE MADDER AL GETS...
GRRRR!
GRRR!
...THE ≥OOPS!≤ BALDER HE GETS! SIGH!

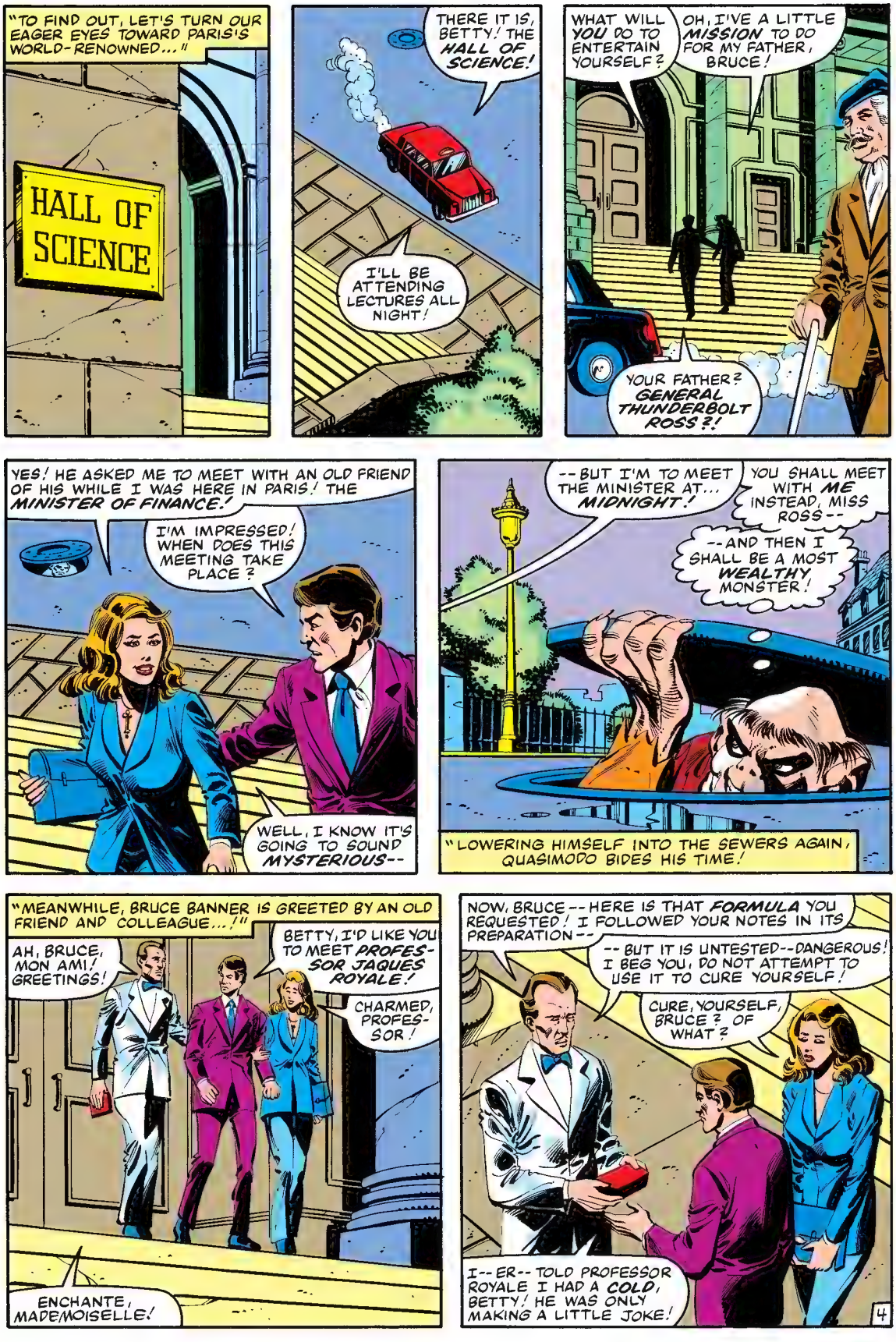
Special Bonus: *The Incredible Hulk vs. Quasimodo* #1 (March 1983) | After Marvel acquired the animation production company DePatie-Freleng Enterprises in 1981 the newly-renamed Marvel Productions launched the Saturday morning cartoons *Spider-Man* and *Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends*. An *Incredible Hulk* animated series followed a year later in September 1982. *The Incredible Hulk vs. Quasimodo* #1 adapted the Hulk cartoon's fourth episode, "When Monsters Meet," which aired October 9, 1982 on NBC. Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema's comic book adaptation hit newsstands roughly two months after the cartoon broadcast.


Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE HULK VS. QUASIMODO!
BILL MANTLO WRITER / SAL BUSCEMA & STEVE MITCHELL ARTISTS / JIM NOVAK, LETTERS BOB SHAREN, COLORS / AL MILGROM EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
"HI, GANG! THIS IS STAN LEE! WHADDAYA SAY WE TAKE A LITTLE TRIP TO PARIS, FRANCE, HOME OF THE MIGHTY ARCH OF TRIUMPH, THE FAMOUS EIFFEL TOWER...
"... AND, OF COURSE, THE ANCIENT, MYSTERIOUS NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL!
"RECOGNIZE IT? OF COURSE YA DO! THIS WAS THE HOME OF ONE OF FICTION'S MOST GROTESQUE CHARACTERS...
"QUASIMODO--THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!"
OH, BRUCE! IT'S MAGNIFICENT, ISN'T IT?
YES, BETTY--I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE NOTRE DAME!
"THAT'S BRUCE BANNER, FAMOUS SCIENTIST, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND BETTY ROSS DOWN THERE! BUT WHAT'S BETTY STARING AT?"
OH, I--I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVE UP THERE... ON THE PARAPET!
HA! TOO MUCH VICTOR HUGO! I TOLD YOU NOT TO READ ABOUT QUASIMODO BEFORE COMING TO PARIS!
NOW YOU'RE STARTING TO SEE THINGS THAT AREN'T THERE!
BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN THERE WAS SOMEONE...!
COME ON, BETTY! I'VE GOT AN EVENING MEETING AT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE TO ATTEND!
"IS BETTY'S IMAGINATION RUNNING AWAY WITH HER, EFFENDI...

Art & Color Restoration: Michael Kelleher & Kellustration

"OR HAS SHE REALLY WITNESSED THE REINCARNATION OF THE ODIOUS HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME ?!!"
THE GOLD KEY SALVATORE! THE WOMAN WEARS IT ABOUT HER NECK!
OUR MOMENT HAS COME, SALVATORE! THE MOMENT WHEN I SHALL ATTAIN GREAT WEALTH!
"HIGH ABOVE THE HEART OF PARIS HE STANDS, HUNCHED AND HORRIBLE!
"DOWN HIS EYES STARE, AT A CHAIN AROUND THE NECK OF THE BEAUTEOUS BETTY ROSS!
"WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN, PILGRIMS? WE'LL FIND OUT IN A TALE I'VE TITLED... "
THE HULK MEETS THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!
2

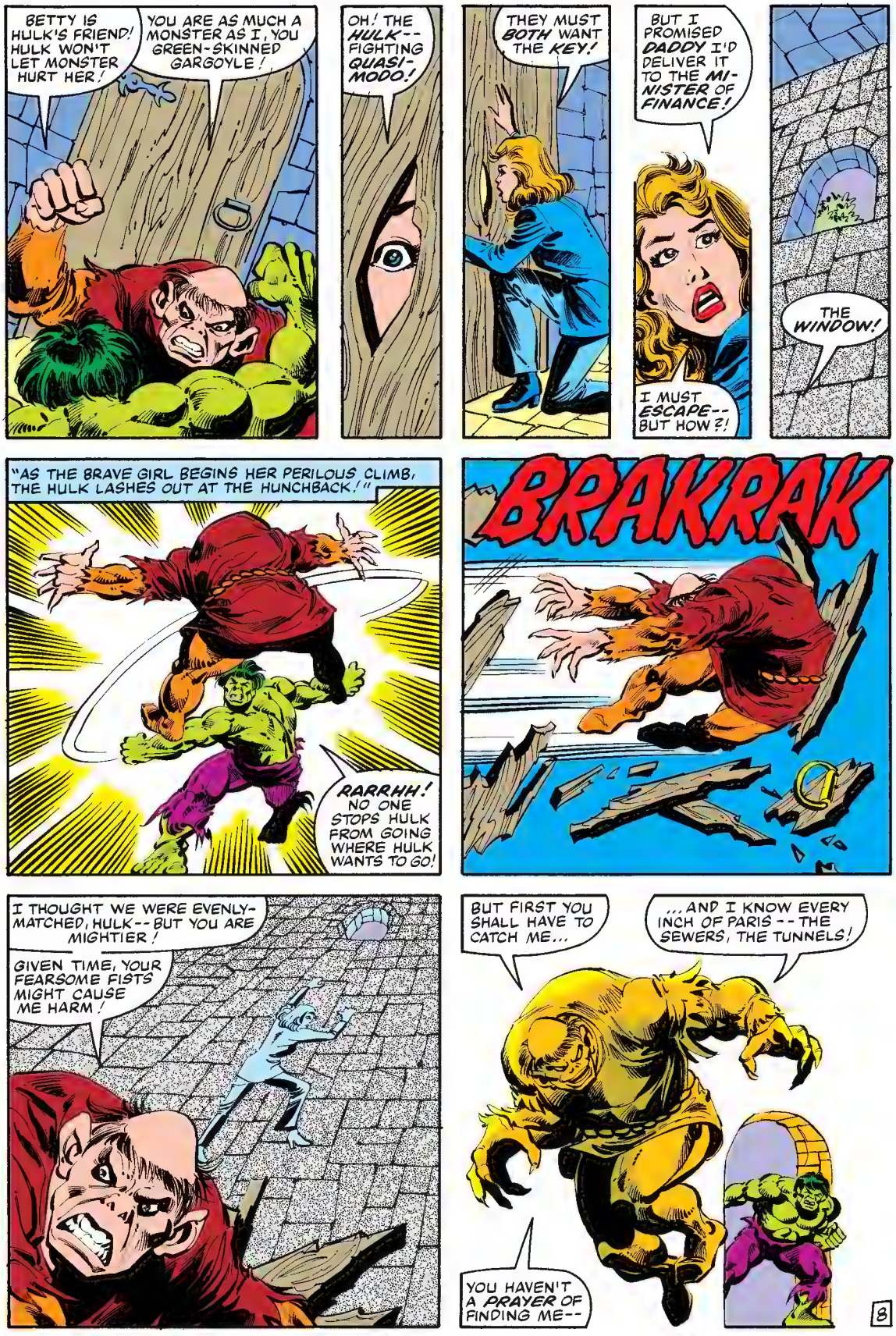
SALVATORE? WHERE ARE YOU, MY FRIEND--MY HELPMATE?
GWERP! GEEK! ERK-ERK!
AH, THERE YOU ARE SALVATORE, YOU SAW? YOU HEARD?
YES, YOU'VE SEEN ALL DURING YOUR AGES AT NOTRE DAME!
YOU'VE SEEN MY SUFFERING, AND NOW YOU, TOO, SENSE THAT IT NEARS IT'S END!
AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST--BRUCE BANNER--HAS COME TO PARIS, AND WITH HIM HIS BEAUTIFUL GIRLFRIEND, BETTY ROSS!
IF I AM DOOMED NEVER TO FIND THE KEY TO MY SALVATION--
--I MAY AT LEAST BE ON THE VERGE OF GAINING THE KEY TO VAST WEALTH!
"WITH A BANSHEE WAIL, THE HORRIBLE HUNCHBACK HURLS HIMSELF AT THE BELL-ROPES!
"HIGH ABOVE PARIS, HE SWINGS INSANELY, LIKE A MAN POSSESSED...
"...AND THE BELLS PEAL OUT HIS MADNESS!
GONG
GONG
BONG
"WHEN THE BELLS RING OUT OF TIME LIKE THAT, PARISIANS SAY IT IS THE GHOST OF QUASIMODO!
"BUT THIS LAUGHING FIEND IS NO GHOST!"
HEEEE! HA-HA-HA-HEEEE!
COME ALONG, SALVATORE! THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE!
YES, THE GOLD KEY! THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER LIKE IT...
...WORN ABOUT THE NECK OF FRANCE'S MINISTER OF FINANCE!
THE WOMAN MUST BE HIS AGENT!
BUT HER KEY MUST BE MINE! LONG HAVE I SEARCHED IN THE SEWERS AND TUNNELS OF PARIS FOR THAT WHICH IT UNLOCKS!
IT IS A KEY THAT WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO VAST RICHES--WEALTH ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FORGET THAT I AM A MONSTER!
THE WOMAN WILL YIELD HER KEY TO ME... OR SHE WILL DIE!
"WOW! DOES BETTY KNOW THE DANGER SHE'S IN? IS THERE ANYONE WHO CAN SAVE HER?
3

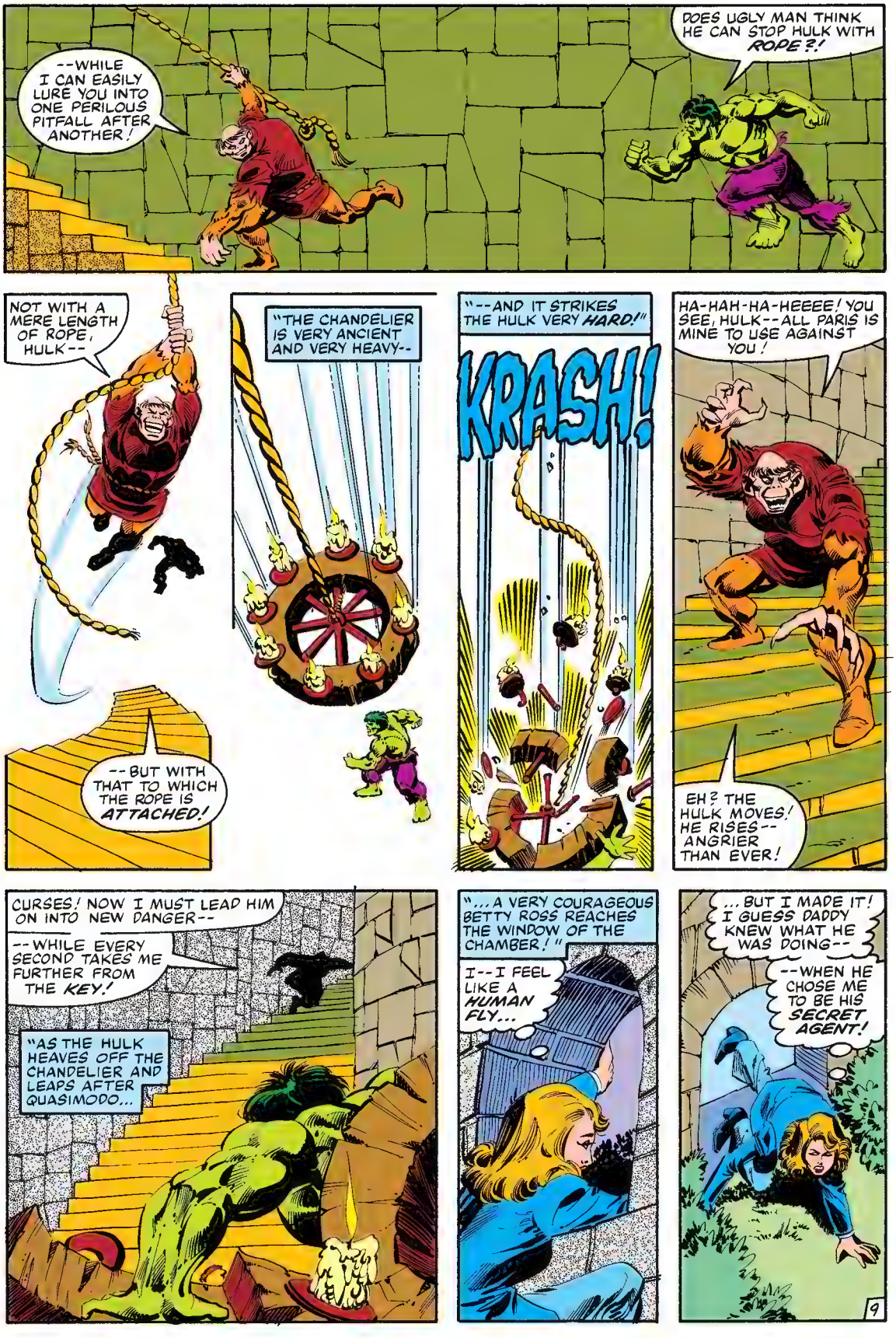

"TO FIND OUT, LET'S TURN OUR EAGER EYES TOWARD PARIS'S WORLD-RENOWNED..."
HALL OF SCIENCE
THERE IT IS, BETTY! THE HALL OF SCIENCE!
I'LL BE ATTENDING LECTURES ALL NIGHT!
WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELF?
OH, I'VE A LITTLE MISSION TO DO FOR MY FATHER, BRUCE!
YOUR FATHER? GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS?!
YES! HE ASKED ME TO MEET WITH AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS WHILE I WAS HERE IN PARIS! THE MINISTER OF FINANCE!
I'M IMPRESSED! WHEN DOES THIS MEETING TAKE PLACE?
WELL, I KNOW IT'S GOING TO SOUND MYSTERIOUS--
--BUT I'M TO MEET THE MINISTER AT... MIDNIGHT!
YOU SHALL MEET WITH ME INSTEAD, MISS ROSS--
--AND THEN I SHALL BE A MOST WEALTHY MONSTER!
"LOWERING HIMSELF INTO THE SEWERS AGAIN, QUASIMODO BIDES HIS TIME!
"MEANWHILE, BRUCE BANNER IS GREETED BY AN OLD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE...!"
AH, BRUCE, MON AMI! GREETINGS!
BETTY, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET PROFESSOR JAQUES ROYALE!
CHARMED, PROFESSOR!
ENCHANTE, MADEMOISELLE!
NOW, BRUCE--HERE IS THAT FORMULA YOU REQUESTED! I FOLLOWED YOUR NOTES IN ITS PREPARATION--
--BUT IT IS UNTESTED--DANGEROUS! I BEG YOU, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE IT TO CURE YOURSELF!
CURE, YOURSELF, BRUCE? OF WHAT?
I--ER--TOLD PROFESSOR ROYALE I HAD A COLD, BETTY! HE WAS ONLY MAKING A LITTLE JOKE!
4

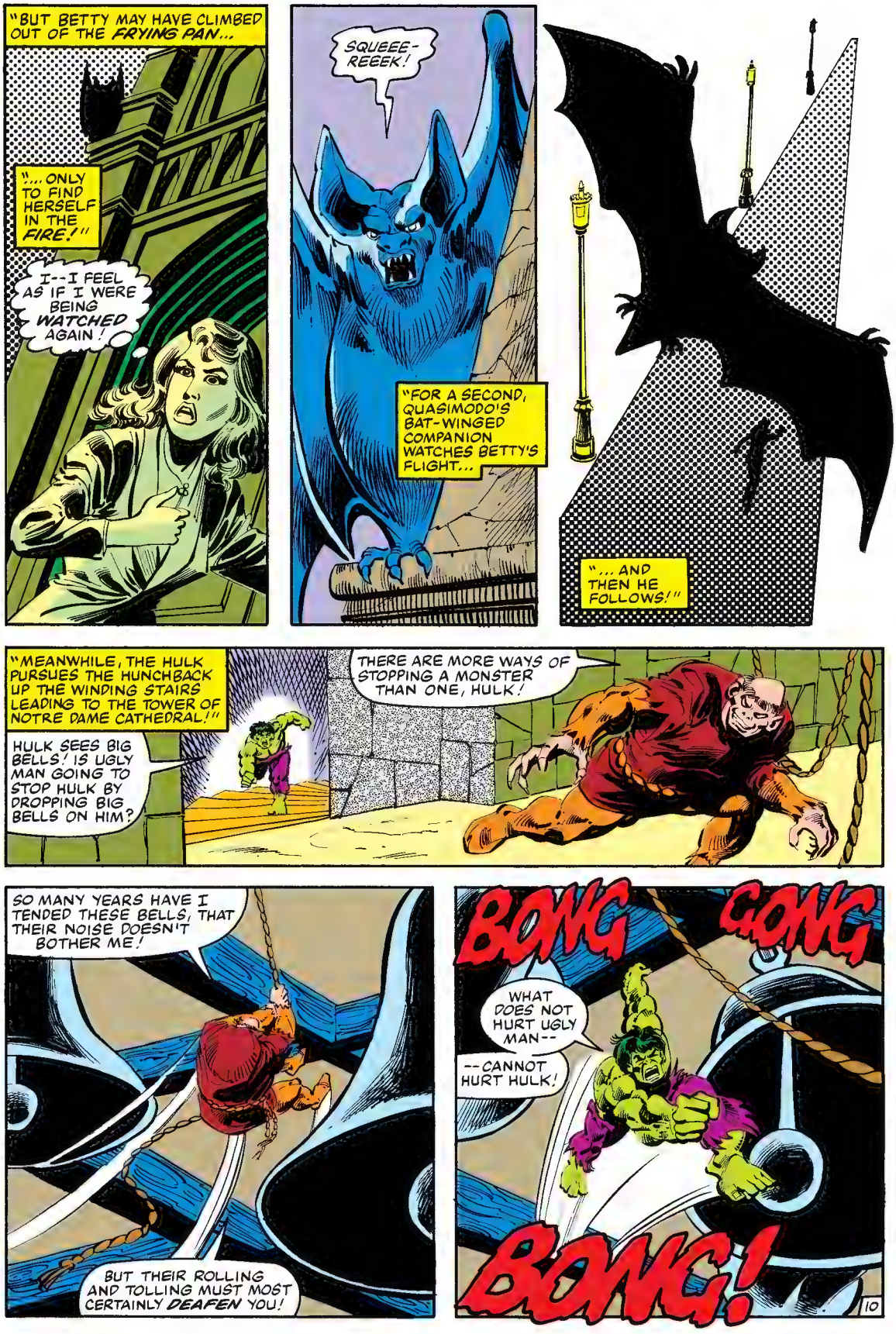
WE SCIENTISTS ARE LIKE THAT-- ALWAYS JOKING!
THE TIME! I'VE GOT A LECTURE TO DELIVER--
--AND YOU'VE YOUR MYSTERIOUS MEETING TO ATTEND!
HERE--LET ME CALL YOU A CAB! TAXI! TAXI!
I CAN NEVER TELL WHEN YOU'RE JOKING, BRUCE-- YOU'RE ALWAYS SO SERIOUS! BUT WHAT DID PROF. ROYALE MEAN ABOUT A... CURE?
"AS BETTY PONDERS, A GNARLED HAND LIFTS A MAN-HOLE COVER...
"...AND NARROWED, PIGLIKE EYES PEER OUT!"
THE MINISTER OF FINANCE SHOULD NEVER HAVE ENTRUSTED THE KEY TO ONE UNTUTORED IN THE ARTS OF ESPIONAGE!
BUT HIS MISTAKE SHALL BE MY GAIN!
TAX...
EEEE
BETTY!
BRUCE, HELP ME! HELP ME!
GOOD GOSH! BETTY'S BEING BORNE OFF--
--BY A MONSTER!
A MONSTER? YES, THAT IS WHAT I AM-- GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDSON OF THE ORIGINAL HUNCH-BACK OF NOTRE DAME!
I CAN NO MORE CHANGE MY FATE THAN I CAN CHANGE MY APPEARANCE!
BUT THE KEY YOU WEAR, MISS ROSS, WILL AT LEAST ALLOW ME SOME SMALL COMFORTS!
BETTY!!!
5

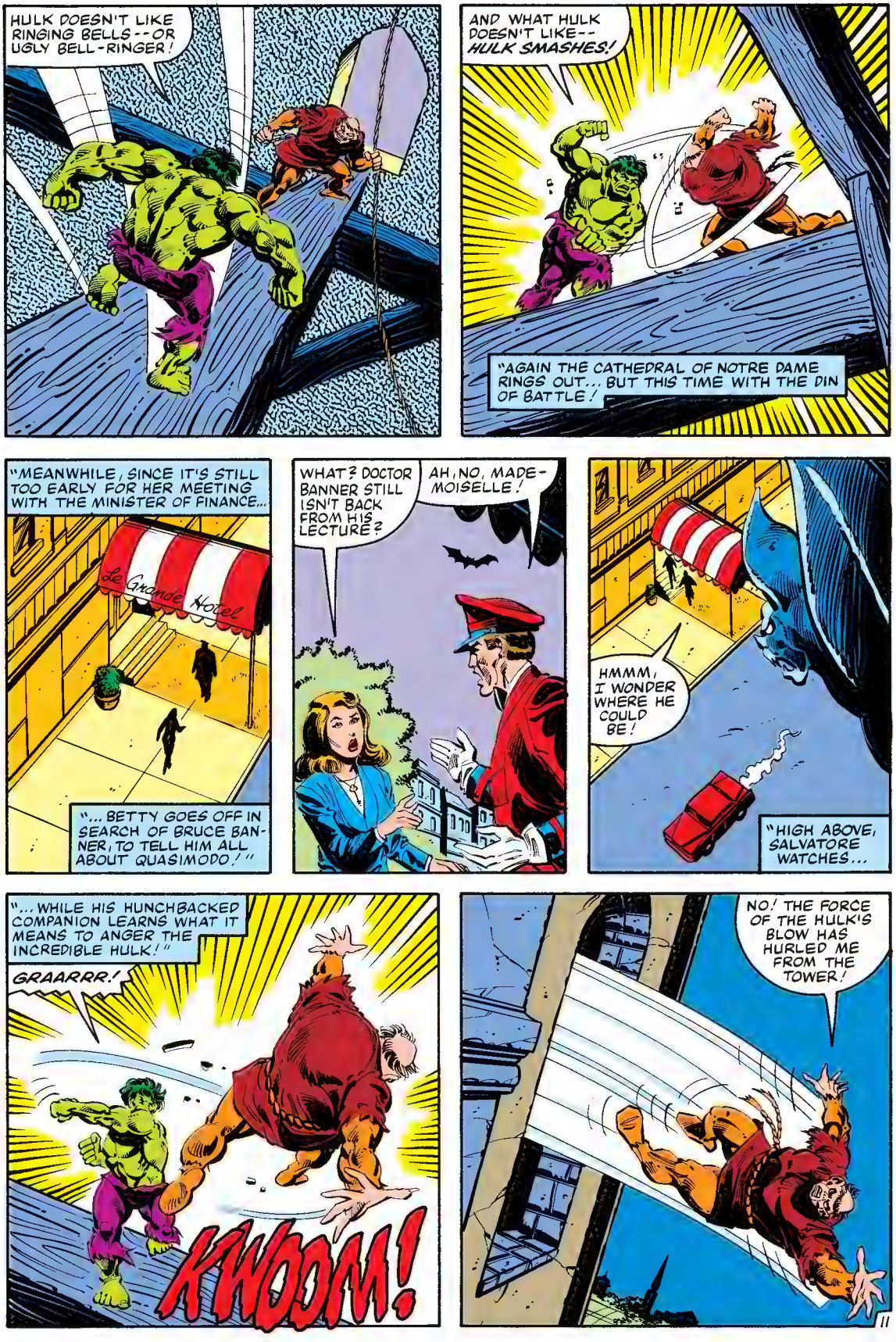
UNHAND HER, YOU FOUL FIEND!
HAH! HAH-HA-HA-HA-HEEE!
THE SEWERS OF PARIS ARE MY SECOND HOME, DR. BANNER!
FOLLOW ME... IF YOU DARE!
"WITH UNERRING ACCURACY, QUASIMODO NEGOTIATES THE MAZE-LIKE CORRIDORS OF PARIS'S SUBTERRANEAN SEWER SYSTEM!"
THERE IS THE HIDDEN CHAMBER FAR BELOW NOTRE DAME!
I WILL LEAVE THE GIRL HERE FOR NOW WHILE I DEAL WITH MY PURSUER!
"AS THE MONSTER SETS THE MAIDEN DOWN, HIS SOUL IS STIRRED BY AN UNFAMILIAR EMOTION!"
SHE IS SO BEAUTIFUL! LIKE A FLOWER! WOULD THAT SHE COULD LOVE ME--
--BUT I AM, AND SHALL ALWAYS BE, A MONSTER...
A CHAMBER-- HIDDEN IN THE SEWERS!
THAT MUST BE WHERE THE MONSTER BROUGHT BETTY!
THERE IS A PRICE FOR YOUR ADMISSION, DOCTOR BANNER-- YOUR LIFE!
THE MONSTER!
YES! THAT IS WHAT I AM-- THAT IS MY CURSE!
I UNDERSTAND! I, TOO, HAVE BEEN CALLED A MONSTER...!
EEEEEEE!
BETTY! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?!!
6

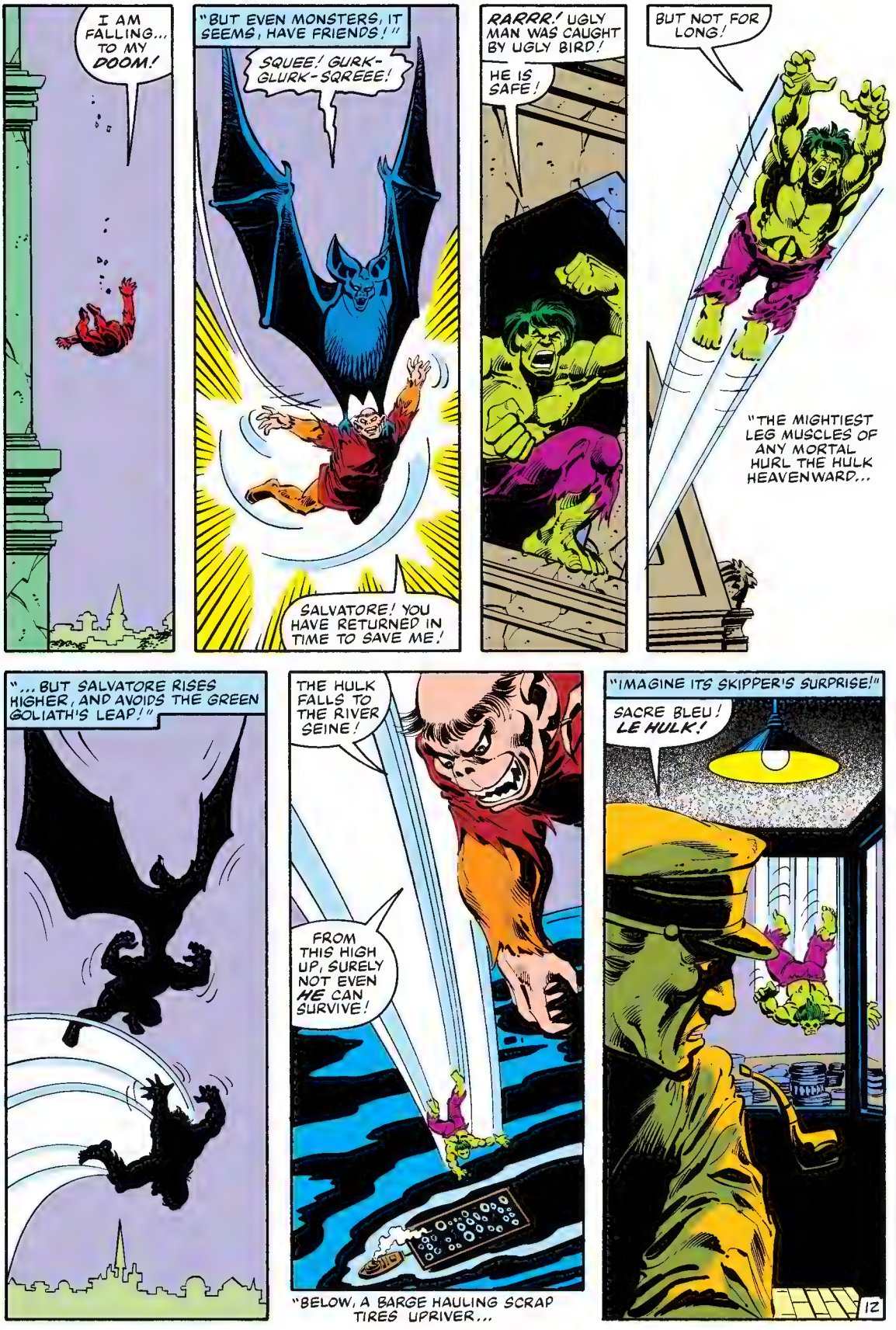
NOTHING, I ASSURE YOU! SHE IS SAFE! I...
DOCTOR BANNER--YOU ARE CHANGING!
"AT BETTY'S SCREAM, THE FRAIL PHYSICIST'S HEARTBEAT RACES, HIS PULSE POUNDS...
RARRGH!
"...AND BRUCE BANNER BECOMES THE EVER-INCREDIBLE HULK!
"IN THE PROCESS, PROF. ROYALE'S FORMULA FLIES FREE...
"...TO BE LOST IN A NARROW CREVICE IN THE FLOOR!"
NOBODY HURTS BETTY! HULK WILL GET HER BACK!
NO! THE KEY SHE WEARS IS MY ONLY HOPE FOR HAPPINESS!
YOU'LL NOT HAVE THE MAIDEN, MONSTER! SHE'S MINE!
GRARGH!
"THE ANCIENT CRYPTS RESOUND WITH THE CLASH OF TITANS...
"SHAKING THE WALLS OF BETTY'S PRISON!
AWRROO!
7


BETTY IS HULK'S FRIEND! HULK WON'T LET MONSTER HURT HER!
YOU ARE AS MUCH A MONSTER AS I, YOU GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE!
OH! THE HULK-- FIGHTING QUASI-MODO!
THEY MUST BOTH WANT THE KEY!
BUT I PROMISED DADDY I'D DELIVER IT TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE!
I MUST ESCAPE-- BUT HOW?!
THE WINDOW!
"AS THE BRAVE GIRL BEGINS HER PERILOUS CLIMB, THE HULK LASHES OUT AT THE HUNCHBACK!"
RARRHH! NO ONE STOPS HULK FROM GOING WHERE HULK WANTS TO GO!
BRAKRAK
I THOUGHT WE WERE EVENLY-MATCHED, HULK-- BUT YOU ARE MIGHTIER!
GIVEN TIME, YOUR FEARSOME FISTS MIGHT CAUSE ME HARM!
BUT FIRST YOU SHALL HAVE TO CATCH ME...
...AND I KNOW EVERY INCH OF PARIS -- THE SEWERS, THE TUNNELS!
YOU HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF FINDING ME--
8

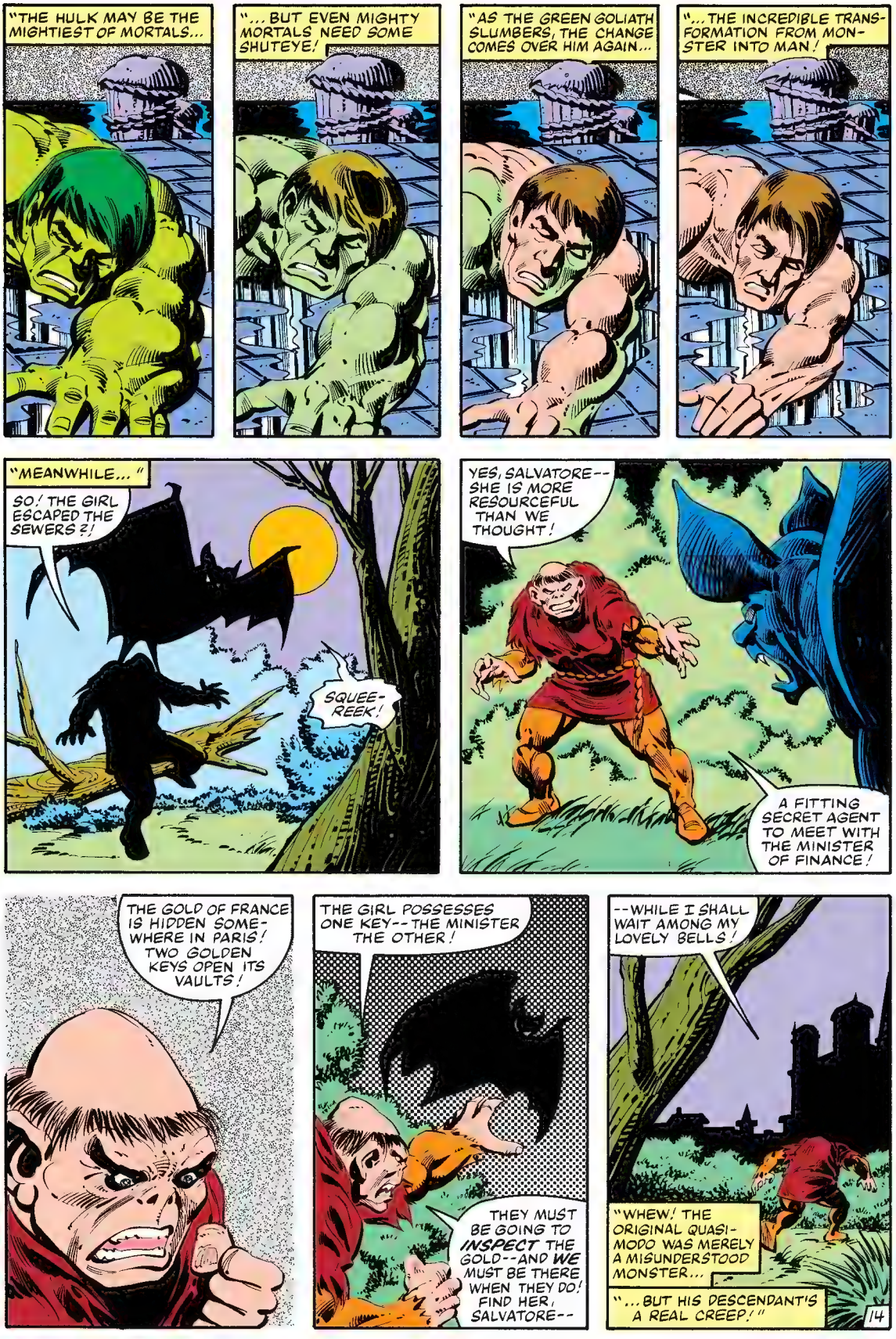

--WHILE I CAN EASILY LURE YOU INTO ONE PERILOUS PITFALL AFTER ANOTHER!
DOES UGLY MAN THINK HE CAN STOP HULK WITH ROPE?!
NOT WITH A MERE LENGTH OF ROPE, HULK--
--BUT WITH THAT TO WHICH THE ROPE IS ATTACHED!
"THE CHANDELIER IS VERY ANCIENT AND VERY HEAVY--
"--AND IT STRIKES THE HULK VERY HARD!"
KRASH!
HA-HAH-HA-HEEEE! YOU SEE, HULK--ALL PARIS IS MINE TO USE AGAINST YOU!
EH? THE HULK MOVES! HE RISES--ANGRIER THAN EVER!
CURSES! NOW I MUST LEAD HIM ON INTO NEW DANGER--
--WHILE EVERY SECOND TAKES ME FURTHER FROM THE KEY!
"AS THE HULK HEAVES OFF THE CHANDELIER AND LEAPS AFTER QUASIMODO...
"...A VERY COURAGEOUS BETTY ROSS REACHES THE WINDOW OF THE CHAMBER!"
I--I FEEL LIKE A HUMAN FLY...
...BUT I MADE IT! I GUESS DADDY KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING--
--WHEN HE CHOSE ME TO BE HIS SECRET AGENT!
9

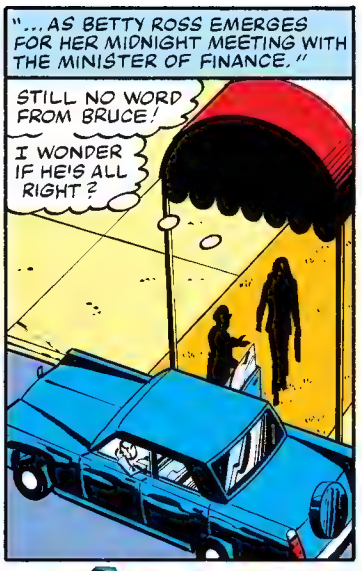

"BUT BETTY MAY HAVE CLIMBED OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...
"...ONLY TO FIND HERSELF IN THE FIRE!"
I--I FEEL AS IF I WERE BEING WATCHED AGAIN!
SQUEEE-REEEK!
"FOR A SECOND, QUASIMODO'S BAT-WINGED COMPANION WATCHES BETTY'S FLIGHT...
"...AND THEN HE FOLLOWS!"
"MEANWHILE, THE HULK PURSUES THE HUNCHBACK UP THE WINDING STAIRS LEADING TO THE TOWER OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL!"
HULK SEES BIG BELLS! IS UGLY MAN GOING TO STOP HULK BY DROPPING BIG BELLS ON HIM?
THERE ARE MORE WAYS OF STOPPING A MONSTER THAN ONE, HULK!
SO MANY YEARS HAVE I TENDED THESE BELLS, THAT THEIR NOISE DOESN'T BOTHER ME!
BUT THEIR ROLLING AND TOLLING MUST MOST CERTAINLY DEAFEN YOU!
BONG
GONG
WHAT DOES NOT HURT UGLY MAN--
--CANNOT HURT HULK!
BONG!
10

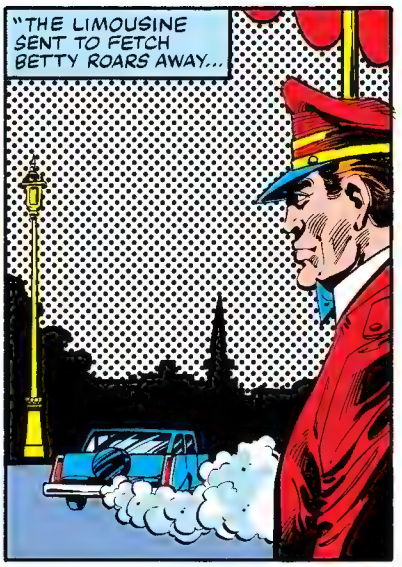

HULK DOESN'T LIKE RINGING BELLS--OR UGLY BELL-RINGER!
AND WHAT HULK DOESN'T LIKE-- HULK SMASHES!
"AGAIN THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME RINGS OUT... BUT THIS TIME WITH THE DIN OF BATTLE!
"MEANWHILE, SINCE IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR HER MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE...
Le Grande Hotel
"... BETTY GOES OFF IN SEARCH OF BRUCE BANNER, TO TELL HIM ALL ABOUT QUASIMODO!"
WHAT? DOCTOR BANNER STILL ISN'T BACK FROM HIS LECTURE?
AH, NO, MADEMOISELLE!
HMMM, I WONDER WHERE HE COULD BE!
"HIGH ABOVE, SALVATORE WATCHES...
"... WHILE HIS HUNCHBACKED COMPANION LEARNS WHAT IT MEANS TO ANGER THE INCREDIBLE HULK!"
GRAARRR!
KWOOM!
NO! THE FORCE OF THE HULK'S BLOW HAS HURLED ME FROM THE TOWER!


I AM FALLING... TO MY DOOM!
"BUT EVEN MONSTERS, IT SEEMS, HAVE FRIENDS!"
SQUEE! GURK-GLURK-SQREEE!
SALVATORE! YOU HAVE RETURNED IN TIME TO SAVE ME!
RARRR! UGLY MAN WAS CAUGHT BY UGLY BIRD!
HE IS SAFE!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!
"THE MIGHTIEST LEG MUSCLES OF ANY MORTAL HURL THE HULK HEAVENWARD...
"... BUT SALVATORE RISES HIGHER, AND AVOIDS THE GREEN GOLIATH'S LEAP!"
THE HULK FALLS TO THE RIVER SEINE!
FROM THIS HIGH UP, SURELY NOT EVEN HE CAN SURVIVE!
"BELOW, A BARGE HAULING SCRAP TIRES UPRIVER...
"IMAGINE ITS SKIPPER'S SURPRISE!"
SACRE BLEU! LE HULK!
12

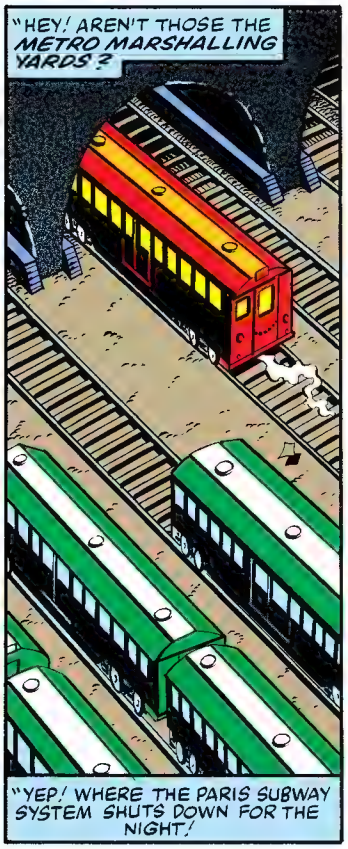
PWOOM
"THE HULK STRIKES LIKE A THUNDERCLAP!
"THE BARGE GOES DOWN...
"...BUT THE JADE GIANT DOES NOT COME UP!"
SQUEEK-REEK-SQREEET!
YES, SALVATORE--WE HAVE WON!
THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS NO MORE!
"SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE MOON, THE GLOATING GARGOYLE ORDERS HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND TO FLY HIM AWAY..."
"...TOWARDS LE GRANDE HOTEL, WHERE BETTY ROSS--AND THE GOLDEN KEY--WERE LAST SEEN!
"AS FOR OUR GREAT GREEN GARGANTUA..."
PFAUGH!
UGLY MAN IS GONE!
HULK MUST FOLLOW UGLY MAN--SAVE BETTY--
--BUT HULK IS SO TIRED!
13

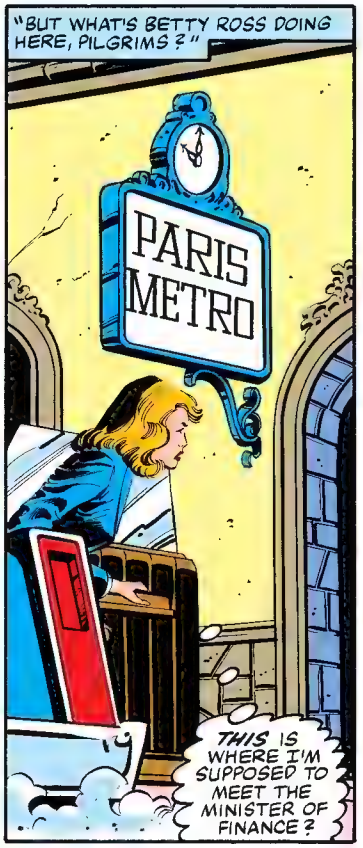

"THE HULK MAY BE THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTALS...
"... BUT EVEN MIGHTY MORTALS NEED SOME SHUTEYE!
"AS THE GREEN GOLIATH SLUMBERS, THE CHANGE COMES OVER HIM AGAIN...
"... THE INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION FROM MONSTER INTO MAN!
"MEANWHILE... "
SO! THE GIRL ESCAPED THE SEWERS?!
SQUEEREEK!
YES, SALVATORE-- SHE IS MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN WE THOUGHT!
A FITTING SECRET AGENT TO MEET WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE!
THE GOLD OF FRANCE IS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN PARIS! TWO GOLDEN KEYS OPEN ITS VAULTS!
THE GIRL POSSESSES ONE KEY-- THE MINISTER THE OTHER!
THEY MUST BE GOING TO INSPECT THE GOLD--AND WE MUST BE THERE WHEN THEY DO! FIND HER, SALVATORE--
--WHILE I SHALL WAIT AMONG MY LOVELY BELLS!
"WHEW! THE ORIGINAL QUASIMODO WAS MERELY A MISUNDERSTOOD MONSTER...
"... BUT HIS DESCENDANT'S A REAL CREEP!"
14

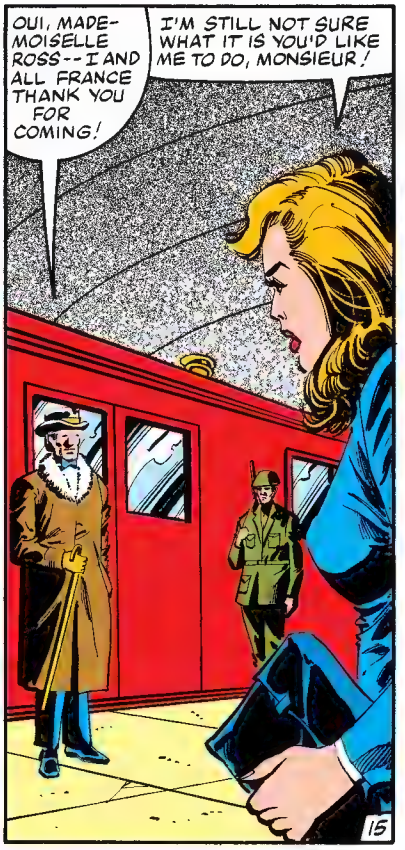

"...AS BETTY ROSS EMERGES FOR HER MIDNIGHT MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE."
STILL NO WORD FROM BRUCE!
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT?

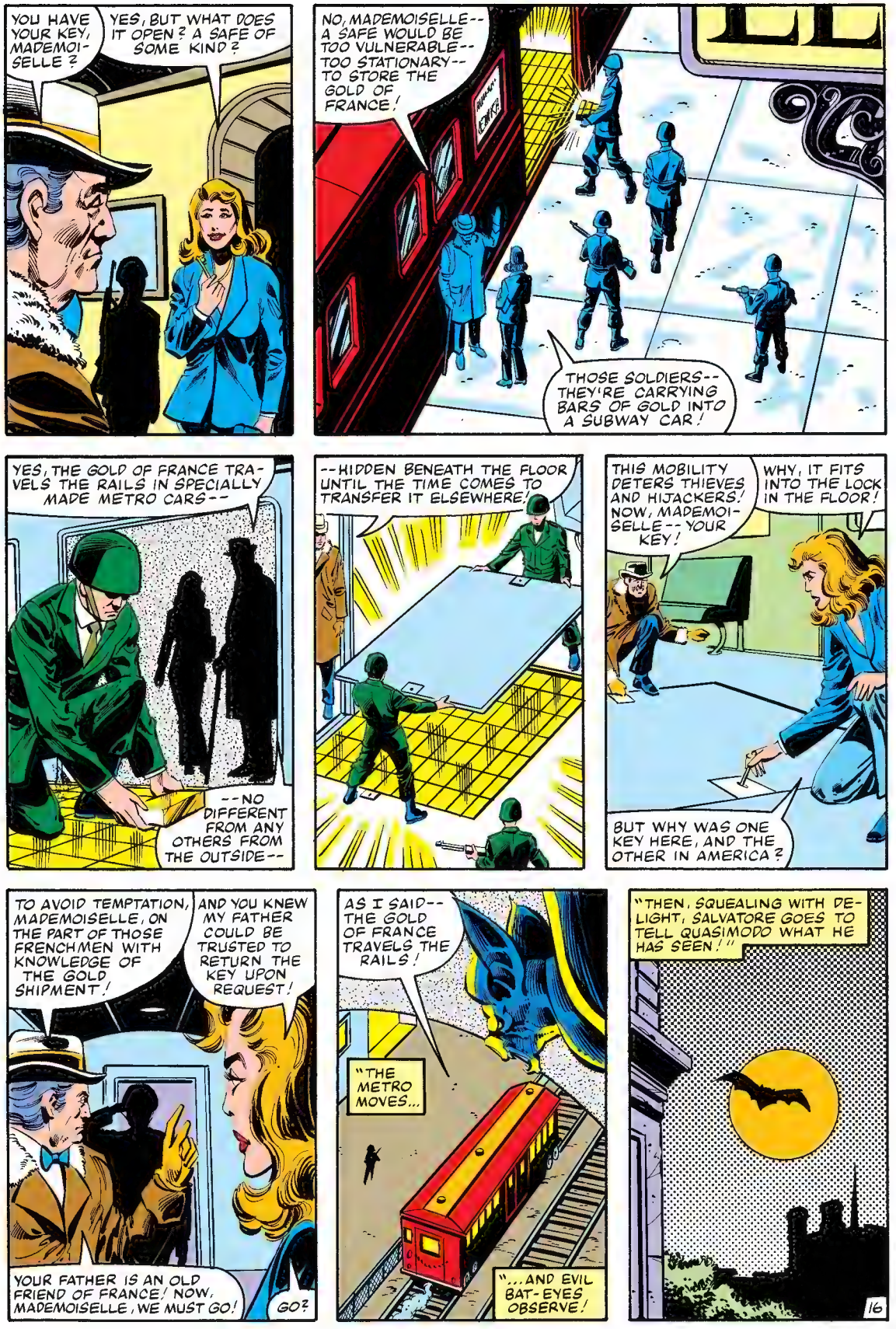


"...AND SALVATORE SILENTLY TAKES WING IN ITS WAKE!



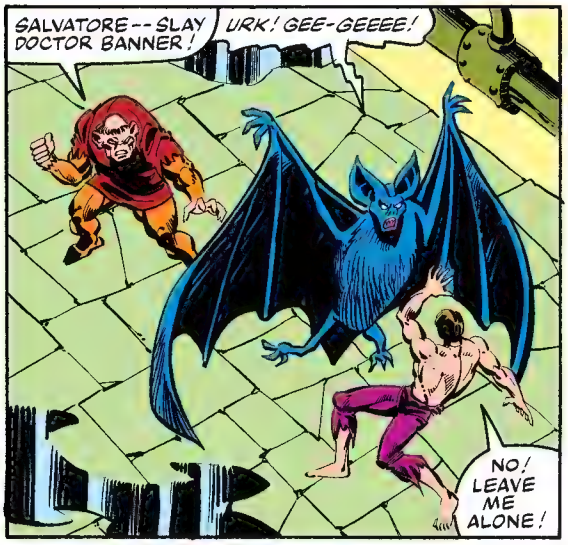


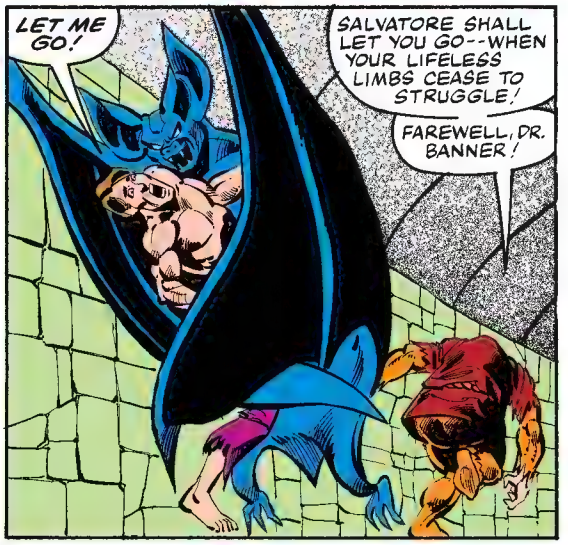



YOU HAVE YOUR KEY, MADEMOISELLE?
YES, BUT WHAT DOES IT OPEN? A SAFE OF SOME KIND?
NO, MADEMOISELLE--A SAFE WOULD BE TOO VULNERABLE--TOO STATIONARY--TO STORE THE GOLD OF FRANCE!
THOSE SOLDIERS--THEY'RE CARRYING BARS OF GOLD INTO A SUBWAY CAR!
YES, THE GOLD OF FRANCE TRAVELS THE RAILS IN SPECIALLY MADE METRO CARS--
--NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHERS FROM THE OUTSIDE--
--HIDDEN BENEATH THE FLOOR UNTIL THE TIME COMES TO TRANSFER IT ELSEWHERE!
THIS MOBILITY DETERS THIEVES AND HIJACKERS! NOW, MADEMOISELLE--YOUR KEY!
WHY, IT FITS INTO THE LOCK IN THE FLOOR!
BUT WHY WAS ONE KEY HERE, AND THE OTHER IN AMERICA?
TO AVOID TEMPTATION, MADEMOISELLE, ON THE PART OF THOSE FRENCHMEN WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOLD SHIPMENT!
AND YOU KNEW MY FATHER COULD BE TRUSTED TO RETURN THE KEY UPON REQUEST!
YOUR FATHER IS AN OLD FRIEND OF FRANCE! NOW, MADEMOISELLE, WE MUST GO!
GO?
AS I SAID--THE GOLD OF FRANCE TRAVELS THE RAILS!
"THE METRO MOVES...
"...AND EVIL BAT-EYES OBSERVE!
"THEN, SQUEALING WITH DELIGHT, SALVATORE GOES TO TELL QUASIMODO WHAT HE HAS SEEN!"
16

"BUT SALVATORE HIMSELF IS SEEN IN TURN BY A WAKING BRUCE BANNER!"
QUASIMODO'S BAT!
BETTY'S STILL A PRISONER IN THE SEWERS!
I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW SALVATORE--LET HIM LEAD ME TO BETTY!
"BRUCE DOESN'T KNOW THAT BETTY ESCAPED QUASIMODO'S CHAMBER...
"...BUT HE SOON FINDS OUT WHEN AGAIN HE ENTERS THE SEWERS OF PARIS!"
GONE! HAS QUASIMODO TAKEN BETTY SOMEWHERE ELSE?
EH? PROF. ROYALE'S FORMULA IN THAT CREVICE!
I MUST HAVE DROPPED IT WHEN I BECAME THE HULK!
THIS IS MY ONLY HOPE OF FOREVER CURING MYSELF OF BECOMING THE HULK!
IS THAT SO, DR. BANNER?
QUASIMODO?!!
YES--A MONSTER LIKE YOURSELF--A MONSTER WHO WOULD BE...A MAN!
THAT SECRET POTION--IT WILL KEEP YOU FROM BECOMING THE HULK--CURE YOU SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AGAIN?
IT MIGHT! IT'S NEVER BEEN TRIED! IT'S STILL AN EXPERIMENT!
THEN EXPERIMENT ON ME! I'M DOOMED TO LOOK LIKE THIS FOREVER, UNLESS...
BUT THERE'S ONLY ENOUGH FOR ONE OF US!
DR. BANNER, AT THIS MOMENT BETTY ROSS TRAVELS WITH THE GOLD OF FRANCE ON A PARIS METRO! AS A MONSTER, I MEANT TO SIEZE THE GOLD!
AS A MAN, I WOULD NOT NEED IT, BECAUSE ALL HAPPINESS WOULD BE MINE!
T-TAKE THE FORMULA!
17

YES! YES!
"SECONDS PASS, LONG SECONDS...
"...THEN LONGER MINUTES!"
NOTHING!
NOTHING IS HAPPENING! IT IS ALL A TRICK!
I SHALL NEVER BE A MAN... BUT ALWAYS A MONSTER!
AND AS A MONSTER, I SHALL HAVE BOTH THE GOLD AND THE GIRL!

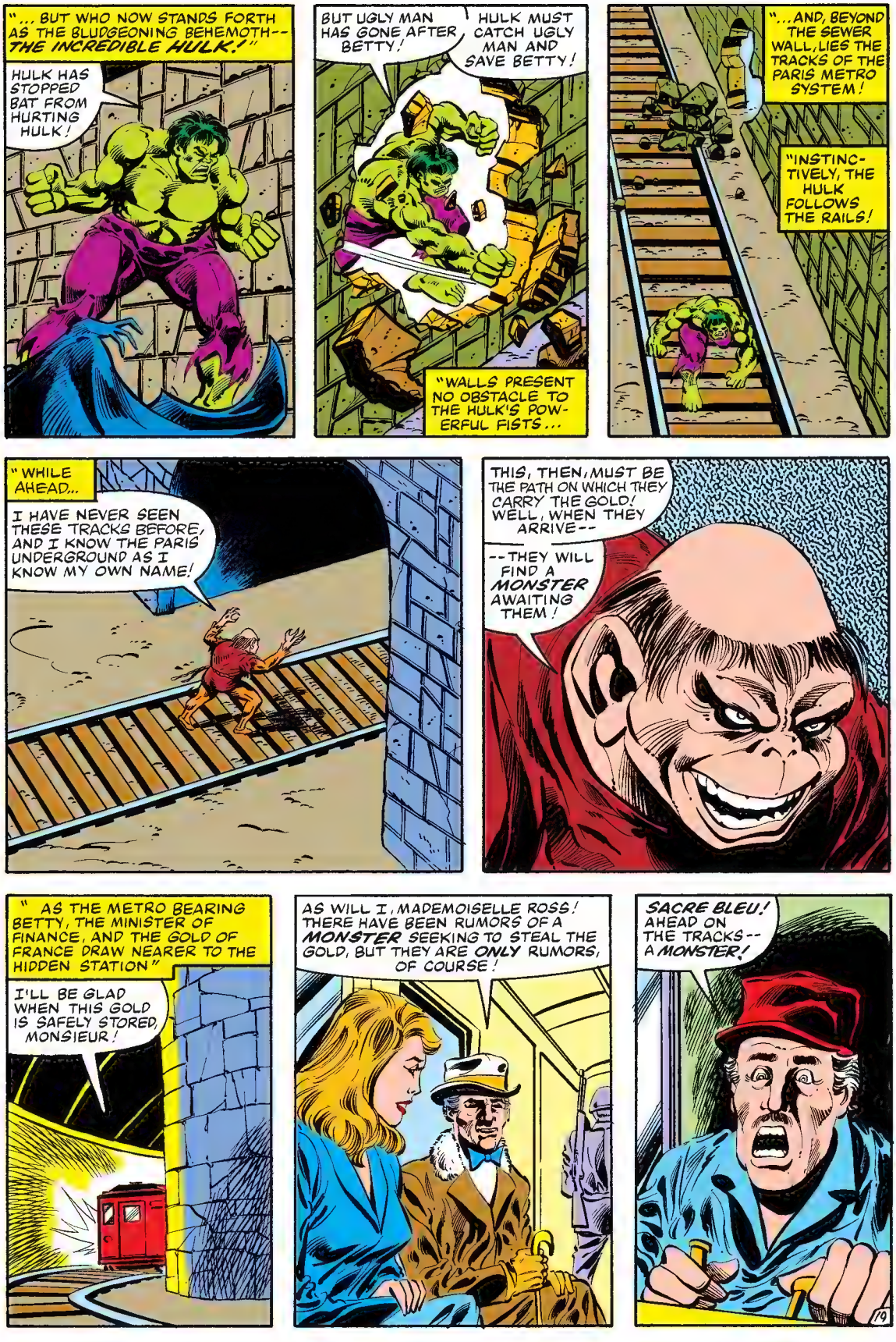

SALVATORE--SLAY DOCTOR BANNER!
URK! GEE-GEEEE!
NO! LEAVE ME ALONE!


LET ME GO!
SALVATORE SHALL LET YOU GO--WHEN YOUR LIFELESS LIMBS CEASE TO STRUGGLE!
FAREWELL, DR. BANNER!

STOP! NO!
SQUEE-URRK! SQUREEEK!
"HIS FOUL, FETID FANGS COMING EVER CLOSER TO BRUCE BANNER'S THROAT...

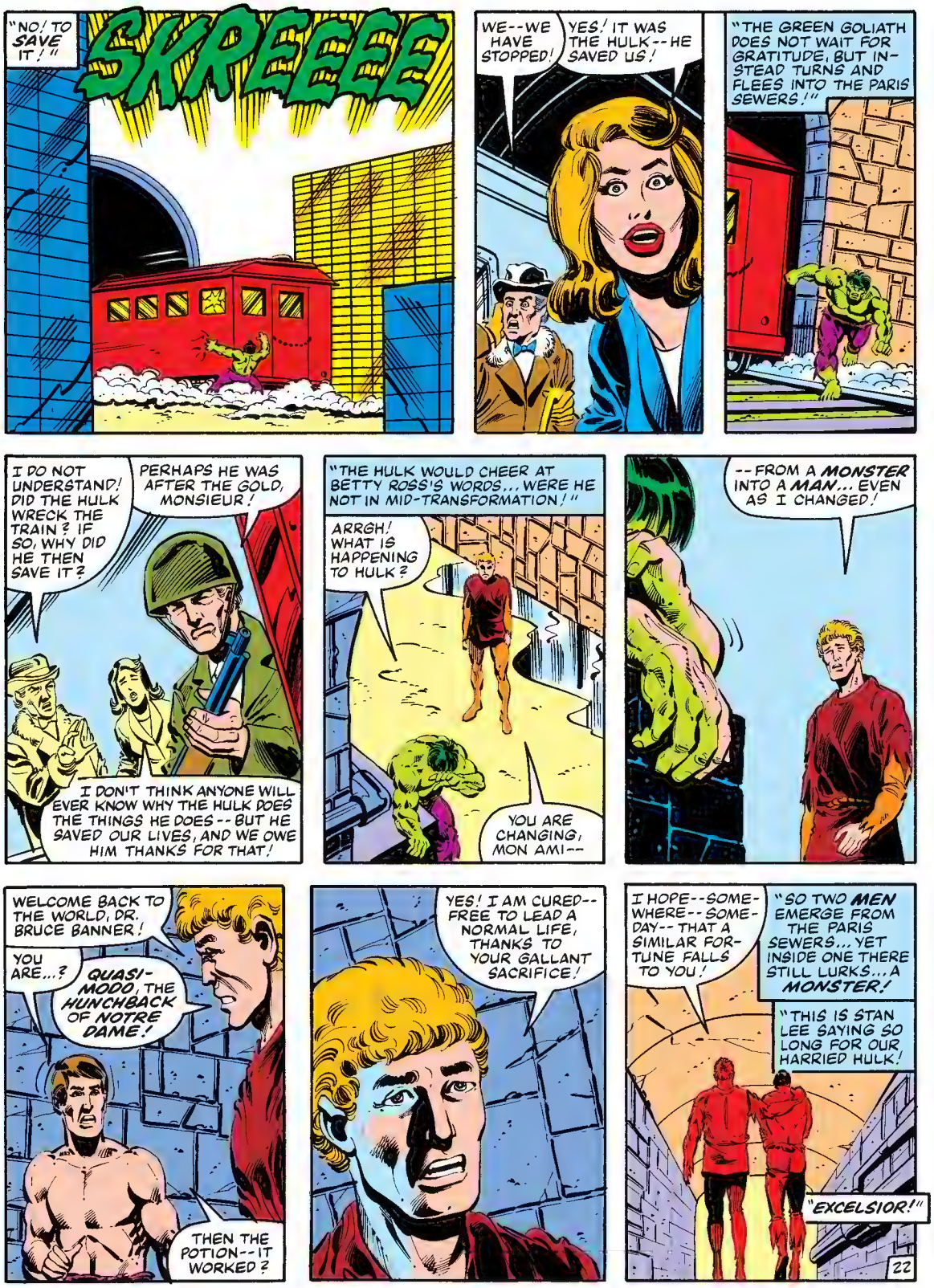
"...SALVATORE ENWRAPS THE STRUGGLING SCIENTIST IN HIS GREAT LEATHERN BAT-WINGS!
"BUT SUDDENLY, THE STRUGGLES BECAME LESS FEEBLE--THE WINGS ARE PRIED APART!

"WITH A SHRIEKING SQUEAL OF PAIN, SALVATORE IS HURLED AWAY FROM WHAT HAD BEEN A PALE AND PITIFUL PHYSICIST...
18


"... BUT WHO NOW STANDS FORTH AS THE BLUDGEONING BEHEMOTH-- THE INCREDIBLE HULK!"
HULK HAS STOPPED BAT FROM HURTING HULK!
BUT UGLY MAN HAS GONE AFTER BETTY!
HULK MUST CATCH UGLY MAN AND SAVE BETTY!
"WALLS PRESENT NO OBSTACLE TO THE HULK'S POWERFUL FISTS...
"...AND, BEYOND THE SEWER WALL, LIES THE TRACKS OF THE PARIS METRO SYSTEM!
"INSTINCTIVELY, THE HULK FOLLOWS THE RAILS!
"WHILE AHEAD...
I HAVE NEVER SEEN THESE TRACKS BEFORE, AND I KNOW THE PARIS UNDERGROUND AS I KNOW MY OWN NAME!
THIS, THEN, MUST BE THE PATH ON WHICH THEY CARRY THE GOLD! WELL, WHEN THEY ARRIVE--
--THEY WILL FIND A MONSTER AWAITING THEM!
" AS THE METRO BEARING BETTY, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND THE GOLD OF FRANCE DRAW NEARER TO THE HIDDEN STATION"
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS GOLD IS SAFELY STORED, MONSIEUR!
AS WILL I, MADEMOISELLE ROSS! THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF A MONSTER SEEKING TO STEAL THE GOLD, BUT THEY ARE ONLY RUMORS, OF COURSE!
SACRE BLEU! AHEAD ON THE TRACKS-- A MONSTER!
19

BEFORE THE STUNNED ENGINEER CAN REACT QUASIMODO IS UPON HIM...
NOOOOOOO.!
BEGONE, LITTLE MAN, THIS TRAIN, AND THE GOLD IT CONTAINS, BELONGS TO QUASIMODO NOW.!
CRASH
IT CANNOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO MASTER THESE CONTROLS AND ONCE I DO, I WILL TAKE THE GOLD TO MY OWN SECRET STOREROOMS.
BUT, AHEAD ON THE TRACKS...
EH? HULK HEARS TRAIN COMING...
...AND MONSTER IS DRIVING TRAIN!
HULK WILL STOP MONSTER THIS TIME! HULK WILL SMASH!
K-TASH!
WHAT?! THE HULK!
NOT NOW, WHEN I AM SO CLOSE! OOF!
WHUMP!
20

"WITH THE ENGINEER GONE, THE GOLD TRAIN SPEEDS OUT OF CONTROL!
"LEAVING TWO BATTLING BEHEMOTHS BEHIND!"
EH? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO UGLY MAN??!
UGLY MAN IS... CHANGING?!!
YES! INTO A MAN! A MAN!
PROF. ROYALE'S SECRET POTION DID WORK AFTER ALL!
THE GOLD TRAIN--IT IS TRAVELING MUCH TOO FAST! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! HULK--ONLY YOU CAN STOP IT!
WHY SHOULD HULK WANT TO STOP SILLY TRAIN?
BECAUSE BETTY ROSS IS ABOARD IT!
"THAT GALVANIZES THE GREEN GOLIATH INTO ACTION!"
"MUSCLES MIGHTIER THAN THOSE POSSESSED BY ANY OTHER MORTAL HURL THE HULK HEADLONG AT THE ONRUSHING METRO!
KATHRAM!
"HE SWEATS! HE STRAINS! HE DIGS HIS FEET IN AND PUTS ALL THE POWER OF HIS MIGHTY BACK INTO HIS LABOR!
"METAL WHEELS SCREAM ON METAL RAILS! THE TRAIN SURGES ON! THE HULK IS DRIVEN BACK!"
M-MON DIEU!
IT'S THE HULK! IS HE TRYING TO WRECK THE TRAIN?!?
21


"NO! TO SAVE IT!"
SKREEEE
WE--WE HAVE STOPPED!
YES! IT WAS THE HULK--HE SAVED US!
"THE GREEN GOLIATH DOES NOT WAIT FOR GRATITUDE, BUT INSTEAD TURNS AND FLEES INTO THE PARIS SEWERS!"
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! DID THE HULK WRECK THE TRAIN? IF SO, WHY DID HE THEN SAVE IT?
PERHAPS HE WAS AFTER THE GOLD, MONSIEUR!
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL EVER KNOW WHY THE HULK DOES THE THINGS HE DOES -- BUT HE SAVED OUR LIVES, AND WE OWE HIM THANKS FOR THAT!
"THE HULK WOULD CHEER AT BETTY ROSS'S WORDS... WERE HE NOT IN MID-TRANSFORMATION!"
ARRGH! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HULK?
YOU ARE CHANGING, MON AMI--
-- FROM A MONSTER INTO A MAN... EVEN AS I CHANGED!
WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD, DR. BRUCE BANNER!
YOU ARE...?
QUASIMODO, THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!
THEN THE POTION--IT WORKED?
YES! I AM CURED--FREE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE, THANKS TO YOUR GALLANT SACRIFICE!
I HOPE--SOMEWHERE--SOMEDAY--THAT A SIMILAR FORTUNE FALLS TO YOU!
"SO TWO MEN EMERGE FROM THE PARIS SEWERS... YET INSIDE ONE THERE STILL LURKS... A MONSTER!
"THIS IS STAN LEE SAYING SO LONG FOR OUR HARRIED HULK!
"EXCELSIOR!"
22

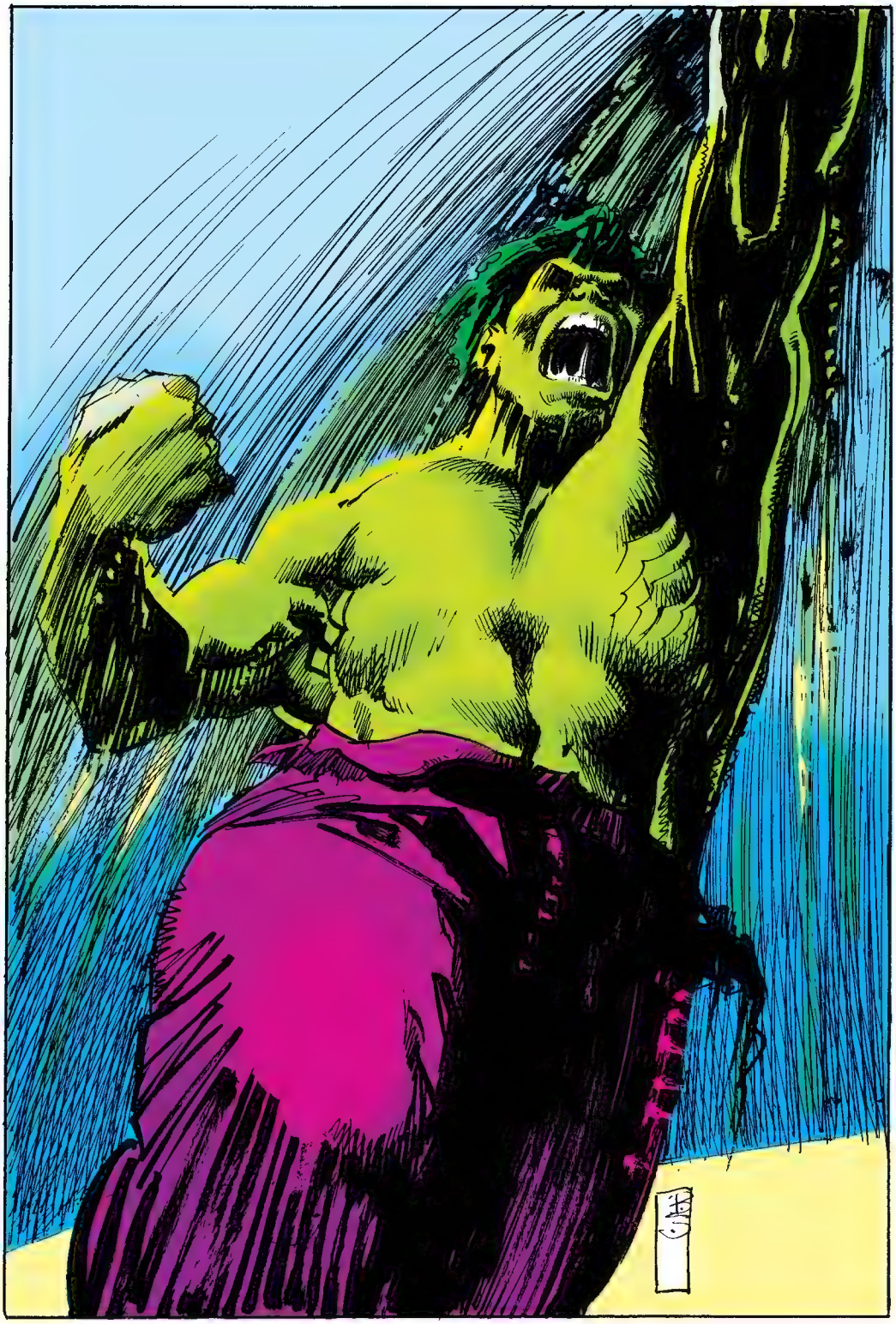
BE SURE TO WATCH THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS ON NBC TELEVISION!

The Incredible Hulk #283 page 14 original art
by Sal Buscema & Joe Sinnott

INCREDIBLE HULK 283 18 18
LIKE SO!
COUSIN BRUCE HAS GONE ALL QUIET. HE SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME THINKING, AND NOT ENOUGH FIGHTING!
STILL, IN THIS CASE, IT HASN'T SEEMED TO HURT MUCH!
I'M FREE! MY WASP'S STING AT LAST HAD SOME EFFECT ON THE HUMANOID!
WE'VE WON THE FIRST ROUND, AVENGERS! THE LEADER WILL REALIZE THE FUTILITY OF LAUNCHING ANOTHER HUMANOID ASSAULT ON US!
ESPECIALLY SINCE CAPTAIN MARVEL WILL ICE THE SECOND WAVE AS EASILY AS SHE FROZE THE FIRST!
THEN NOTHING STANDS BETWIXT US AND OUR FOE!
NOTHING BUT SPACE, THUNDER GOD!
AND THAT'S NO OBSTACLE AT ALL!
14

Courtesy Vito Longo

Marvel Fanfare #8 (May 1983) Hulk pinup
by Bill Sienkiewicz



Marvel Fanfare #11 (November 1983) Hulk pinup
by Jim Shooter & Terry Austin

The Incredible Hulk #288 cover original art
by Ron Wilson & Joe Sinnott

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

BIOGRAPHIES

BILL MANTLO

From the mid-'70s through the late-'80s, Bill Mantlo established himself as one of the most dedicated writers in the comics industry, writing hundreds of stories across dozens of titles, primarily for Marvel Comics.

Mantlo broke into comics as a colorist, but it wasn't long before he was given a crack at writing a fill-in story, a "Sons of the Tiger" story in the black-and-white *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine, and his true comics talent began to emerge. The quality of his work led to his installation as that book's regular writer, a tenure that included the notable achievement of introducing comics' first Puerto Rican hero, the White Tiger.

After achieving notoriety within the Marvel offices as a guy who could knock out credible fill-in scripts at a moment's notice, Mantlo was given more regular work. One early highlight was his 20-issue tenure on *Iron Man* that began the Golden Avenger's return to prominence. As one might expect from someone with such a volume of work, Mantlo was game to take on projects others dismissed, and he did it with an unfeigned aplomb that elevated the work.

It was on two licensed titles that Mantlo built his legacy. Inspired by a toy given to his son at Christmas, Mantlo lobbied Marvel to adapt Micronauts into an ongoing series. The award-winning epic he spun with artistic luminaries like Michael Golden and Pat Broderick is still highly revered by comics fandom as is his even longer run on *Rom*, wherein he developed a universe filled with Spaceknights, Dire Wraith monsters and outer space intrigue. Other notable credits in Mantlo's career include *Incredible Hulk*, *Alpha Flight* and *Spectacular Spider-Man.*

Just as Mantlo had begun a new career as a public defender with the New York City Legal Aid Society, he was struck by a hit-and-run driver and went into a weeks-long coma from severe head trauma. He has since been under constant medical care. The comics community has led multiple fundraisers to aid in the continuing care of a talented writer who is missed by his many fans.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, including the all-time classic *Silver Surfer* #4, Buscema quickly graduated to penciling. He was an anchor of the Marvel line in the 1970s with long runs on books like *Captain America*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and a 100-plus issue run on *The Incredible Hulk.* Buscema was also behind defining the tone on early issues of *The Defenders*, *Rom* and *The New Mutants.* His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and into the '90s. In 1988, he returned to *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and over the next ten years penciled every issue but two from #134 through #238 (and inked the vast majority as well!) Although he retired in the late '90s, Buscema has continued to lend his talents to projects from time to time, most notably the cult hit *Spider-Girl.*

HERB TRIMPE

He may not have dreamed up as many characters as Kirby or Ditko, or had as groundbreaking a style as Steranko or Adams—and he'll be the first one to tell you that! But Herb Trimpe is easily one of the most recognizable comic artists of all time, owing to the incredible popularity of two titles (*Incredible Hulk*, *G.I. Joe*) he made successes.

Herb joined Marvel's production department fresh out of the armed forces, where he served in the Air Force as a weatherman from 1962-1966, providing weather telemetry to forces in Vietnam. In between his office duties, he landed fill-in work as a penciler and inker on books like *Kid Colt, Outlaw* and *Marvel Super-Heroes* #16, featuring the Phantom Eagle, a collaboration with writer Gary Friedrich that played off Herb's well-known interest in drawing airplanes.

He also inked several books, most notably over Marie Severin's Hulk in *Tales to Astonish*. Several months later, Herb got the book as his own, and from 1968 to 1975, the Hulk's tales were drawn under his auspices. He combined an E.C.-influenced approach to layouts with Kirby-esque dynamics, a style that became even more pronounced when he began inking his own pencils with issue #117. Through it all, he never strayed from the elements of the character he felt had already been perfected: the pathos of a tragic figure's Jekyll/Hyde dual personality. During his tenure, he came up with the Hulkbusters, did character designs for the likes of Wendigo and Zzzax, and also drew the first appearance of Wolverine in *Incredible Hulk* #180-182.

After the Hulk, Trimpe drew *Godzilla*, *Shogun Warriors* and *The Defenders.* He also drew the first several issues of Marvel UK's *Captain Britain*. As the 1980s began, Trimpe drew a much-beloved run on *Marvel Team-Up*, but it was the launch of *G.I. Joe* that would make Trimpe's some of the most seen comic art of the decade. An instant hit, selling hundreds of thousands of copies over multiple printings, it was the start of an incredibly successful, long-running title. In addition to the early *G.I. Joe* issues, Trimpe drew its spinoff title, *G.I. Joe Special Missions.*

Another highlight in Trimpe's career was providing breakdown art in collaboration with Barry Windsor-Smith on the *Machine Man* limited series. Later in the decade, his workload scaled back to spot penciling and inking jobs. In 2002, he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the San Diego Comic-Con for services rendered as a chaplain at Ground Zero after 9/11. In his retirement, he continued to delight fans with the occasional cover or short story. Trimpe passed away in 2015, leaving a legacy as one of Marvel's most accomplished storytellers.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY PRESENTS THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC BOOKS, PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED FROM THE HIGHEST-QUALITY SOURCES AND WITH THE MOST DILIGENT ARCHIVAL METHODS.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee.

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

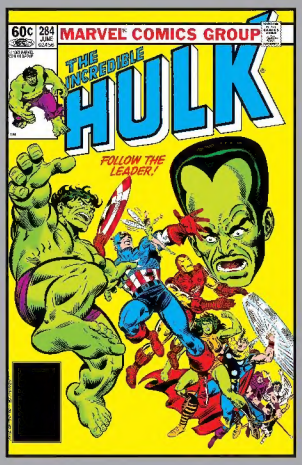
Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-26
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-3
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-25
THE AVENGERS WEST COAST VOL. 1
THE BLACK PANTHER VOLS. 1-3
BROTHER VOODOO VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-17
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-6
THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-19
DAZZLER VOLS. 1-4
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-9
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-11
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-27
GHOST RIDER VOLS. 1-6
HOWARD THE DUCK VOLS. 1-2
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-19
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-18
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-4
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
THE MAN-THING VOL. 1
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-8
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-7
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-23
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
NOT BRAND ECHH VOL. 1
OMEGA THE UNKNOWN VOL. 1
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-8
SPIDER-WOMAN VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-8
THE TOMB OF DRACULA VOLS. 1-4
THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH VOL. 1
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT VOLS. 1-3
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-16

60c
280
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK

60c
282
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK

60c
283
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK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284
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
FOLLOW THE LEADER!

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285
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THE INCREDIBLE
HULK

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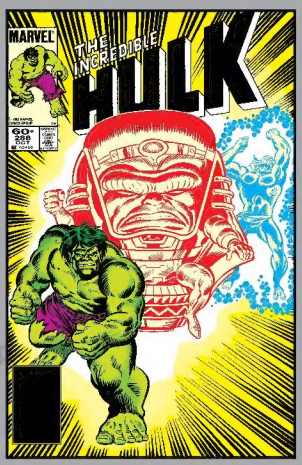
286
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK


MARVEL
THE INCREDIBLE
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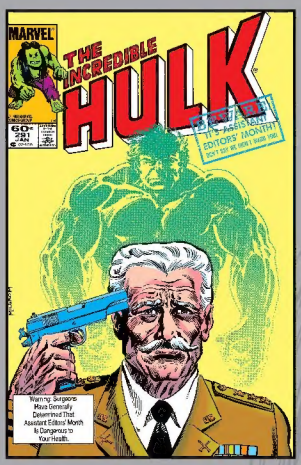
MARVEL
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
IT'S ASSISTANT EDITORS' MONTH!
Warning: Surgeons Have Generally Determined That Assistant Editors Month Is Dangerous to Your Health.